

£58m rise in Concorde costs last year

By Arthur Reed
Air Correspondent

Costs of the Concorde super-sonic airliner rose a further £58m over the past 12 months to a total of £1,154m, shared between Britain and France, Mr. Varley, Secretary of State for Industry, told the Commons yesterday.

The sum was accounted for by pay and price increases and variations in exchange rates.

It was disclosed in another Commons answer yesterday, that the Prime Minister had received an invitation to fly in the Concorde, but no details have been fixed. Mr. Robert Adley, Conservative MP for Christchurch and Lymington, asked the Prime Minister: "Before you leave office, will you reaffirm your total commitment to ensuring the success of the project, and urge your successor, whoever he may be, to take an early flight?"

Mr. Wilson replied: "Yes to the first part of your question, and yes to the second part, because I have recently had an invitation."

The Department of Industry yesterday confirmed that the British Aircraft Corporation is negotiating with an undisclosed foreign airline for Concorde orders.

The disclosure came from Mr. Mervyn Hulin, chief shop steward of the Transport and General Workers' Union at Rolls-Royce, who met Mr. Kaulman, Minister of State for Industry, after the minister discussed Concorde in Paris on Monday.

Mr. Tom Lynch, secretary of the British Aircraft Corporation and Rolls-Royce liaison committee, said yesterday: "We do not feel the Government is exerting enough pressure to sell Concorde."

Jobs in jeopardy, page 21

Jail remand for girl aged 16

A girl of 16 accused at Alton Juvenile Court, Hampshire, yesterday of possessing a shotgun and cartridges, at a comprehensive school with intent to endanger life was remanded to Holloway prison for a further week despite a protest from her father.

He said his daughter was having to mix with convicted criminals even though she had not been found guilty of any offence.

Tribunal is to be 'essentially non-political' and will be concerned only with points of law

Court for employment appeals opens

By Marcel Berlins
Legal Correspondent

An opulent, eighteenth-century house in St. James's Square, London, is the unlikely setting for the new appeal court for disputes arising from employment, which opens today. It was last occupied privately by Lord and Lady (Nancy) Astor.

The Employment Appeal Tribunal, set up by the Employment Appeal Act, 1975, will hear all appeals on points of law from the decisions of industrial tribunals under laws dealing with various aspects of employment.

They include Acts on sex discrimination, equal pay, redundancy payments, and other legislation protecting the employee's job pay, and right of association.

The president of the court is Mr. Justice Phillips, a High Court judge. Six other judges, including a Scottish judge, have been appointed to sit on the tribunal, part time. An appeal will be heard by a judge sitting with two (and sometimes four) lay members, all having equal voting power.

The 18 lay representatives

have been appointed on the basis of their "special knowledge or experience of industrial relations", half from the employers side, the other half representing the workers.

Comparisons between the tribunal and the ill-fated National Industrial Relations Court set up by the last Conservative government are inevitable, but wide of the mark.

As Mr. Justice Phillips puts it: "The tribunal is essentially non-political." To all but a tiny number of cases its jurisdiction is to hear appeals from industrial tribunals on points of law. It cannot hear appeals on factual issues, or deal with disputes as a court of first instance. It will not, other than in exceptional circumstances, hear live evidence.

Some superficial resemblances between the two courts remain. The bench of the tribunal is also made up of a judge and lay members. Neither the judge nor lawyers will be robes or wigged. The judge will be addressed as "Sir" and not as "Your Lordship".

Because the argument will be

on questions of law, there will be a legal ambience in the tribunal. Everything is being done, however, to make it as easy and as friendly as possible for the large number of litigants in person expected to bring appeals.

Lodging an appeal will require little more than filling in a simple form, and advice will be available at the entrance to the court to help appellants, as well as people appearing about their rights of appeal. Once an appeal has been lodged the tribunal's office will do most of the copying and administrative work on behalf of the appellant.

One possible cause for dissatisfaction arises from the provisions on costs. Broadly, the tribunal will have no power to award costs, even to the successful party, unless there has been, effectively, an abuse of the proceedings.

That means that unless an appellant is legally aided he will have to pay his own costs, which may prevent him from using a lawyer even in a complicated case.

Complaints about hospital upheld

Continued from page 1

now enter the hospital with confidence.

Although many in responsible positions, including doctors, felt that the inquiry was a waste of time and money, the criticisms, medical staff dismissed them as immature, naive, and unrealistic.

The inquiry concludes that there were good grounds for feeling that open, free discussion and criticism was needed, and that patients and staff found normal channels of criticism frustrating.

A report by the Hospital Advisory Service in 1971 was welcomed rather than welcomed, and in part resented. Yet had it been discussed and acted upon, the criticisms by Dr. Ankers and Mr. Weston would not have been written.

A former member of the regional hospital board and the hospital management committee had said of the criticism by Dr. Ankers and Mr. Weston: "I doubt that this campaign of witch-hunting, digging up drains, opening cesspools, is in the best interests of patients or the long stay of staff. I believe it may be part of a coordinated movement throughout the world to attack psychiatric methods and mental health care."

The inquiry concludes that consultants failed to give sufficient attention to long stay wards. It says they admitted that they knew they provided insufficient time and that reviews of patients took place at unacceptable intervals, but preserved their old image of having total ultimate responsibility.

Nurses regarded themselves as under the control of the doctors and waited for them to initiate change. There was lack of initiative by senior nursing officers and nursing officers. A new principal nursing officer, appointed in September, 1972, brought new ideas and a fresh attitude, but he was unable to use his initiative and left in May, 1974.

The committee comments: "We were left with the impression that there had been a deliberate closing of the hospital to prevent this intrusion from disturbing the accepted balance of power."

The management committee seemed to be unaware of the extent of the deficiencies on the long stay ward.

The inquiry calls for managers to take responsibility and for those with a monitoring role to satisfy themselves by

personal visits and inspection.

Mr. John Donohue, chairman of the South-East Thames Regional Health Authority, stated yesterday that he doubted whether any hospital would be able to emerge unblemished from such a searching examination.

The authority would make urgent action. Some of the shortcomings had been tackled. Our Medical Correspondent writes: The catalogue of misery shows how far the practice of mental treatment differs from the theory.

Not until society changes its attitudes to people with mental problems, and psychiatric treatment acquires the purpose it needs to be effective and to attract enthusiastic medical and nursing staff.

(Report of Committee of Inquiry, St. Augustine's Hospital, Canterbury, 1974. See Thames Regional Health Authority, Randolph House, Wellesley Road, Croydon.)

Leading article, page 15

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CRITALL

Commons turns dark as Mr Wilson bows out

By Hugh Noyes
Parliamentary Correspondent

Westminster

With an electronic masterstroke that would have done credit to a Hollywood impresario, the lights in the House of Commons went out yesterday at precisely the moment that Mr Wilson sat down at the end of Prime Minister's Question Time after positively his last appearance at the Dispatch Box. His next visit to the chamber will be as a backbencher.

As the lights dimmed and Big Ben tolled the hour of 3.30, Mr Wilson's last appearance as Prime Minister was a dramatic one. He disappeared in a cloud of smoke. A Tory MP called anxiously for candles and from the darkening gloom around the Chair came the voice of the Speaker reassuring the House that every effort would be made to restore the lighting.

With Mr Wilson watching from a gallery above, the Prime Minister gave no indication that he would be any the mellow in his new elder statesman role. As Mrs Thatcher dug her talons into him for the last time with a question about the increasing burden of taxation, Mr Wilson turned to the Tory leader telling her that she possessed "a total lack of gumption in all political matters". She had exceeded even herself in attempting to interfere with union elections, he added.

It was a typical question time, starting with a query whether the Prime Minister was aware that the greatest concentration of paper mills in the country was in the constituency of Bury and Radcliffe, and ending with a rebuff for the European policies of General de Gaulle. Appropriately, because Mr Neil Martin has been one of Mr Wilson's most persistent questioners from the Tory back benches, this was the last question to the Prime Minister. As it was 3.30, Mr Martin said, could he congratulate the Prime Minister on the dexterity with which he had tried to answer, not always successfully, the questions in this House.

Parliamentary report, page 4

Another farewell of a sort came from Mr Andrew Faulds, one of the most regular and irritating thorns in Mr Wilson's flesh on the Labour side of the Commons.

To the surprise of MPs, the member for Watford, East, remarked that since he had always been "a 150 per cent Harold man" would the Prime Minister, when he retired to the back benches, come and join the congenial company around Mr Faulds instead of going to the traditional seat below the Speaker.

With a flash of Prime Ministerial wit, Mr Wilson replied that if Mr Faulds had always been "a 150 per cent Harold Wilson man", for the first time he was beginning to understand the meaning of inflation. He hoped he would be able to continue to help Mr Faulds where ever he was sitting.

But Mr Wilson was also at his most waspish as one ham-fisted Tory MP tried to make political capital out of Mr Solzhenitsyn's unfavourable comparison of the United Kingdom with Uganda and Romania. Mr Wilson retorted that Mr Solzhenitsyn had the right to say what he wanted but that he had no experience of this country.

Mr Wilson totally rejected what the Russian had said about Britain and added that if the Conservative Party thought it had anything to gain by exploiting what Mr Solzhenitsyn said, it would be proved badly wrong.

Switching to the EEC, the Prime Minister went on to a more serious note in telling the House that he hoped the Community would reject its system of total standardisation of everything we ate, drank, bought and sold. The strength of the EEC and Europe should be in the diversity of our cultures and not in standardised conformity. There, with a few final flourishes and an announcement that he would soon be taking a flight in Concorde, Mr Wilson bowed to the Chair and retired from the fray.

Mr Healey 'would like to keep present job'

By Our Political Staff

Mr Healey, the eliminated candidate in the Labour leadership contest, who received 38 votes (compared with 30 for the first ballot), told reporters after the result of the second ballot was declared yesterday:

"Of course, I am disappointed not to have done better, but I have always respected the wisdom of the Parliamentary Labour Party and the friendship between the members and their various camps was strengthened rather than weakened as the election went on."

When asked what purpose was served by his staying in for the second ballot, he said: "To give the widest possible choice so that the man who finally won had the widest possible support."

He thought it had been worth fighting the election, but when

asked whom he would vote for now he replied: "That is my own decision."

Did he think that Mr Foot should withdraw? "I think he should decide for himself."

When asked if he would be happy to stay on as Chancellor of the Exchequer, Mr Healey replied: "Very much so." Did he think Mr Callaghan would be hard to beat now? "I think so," he said.

Mr Shore, Secretary of State for Trade, said the main feature of the second-ballot campaign had been the wide drawing power of Mr Foot, who was "a man who far transcends the original base within the party from which he developed."

He would not have been supporting Mr Foot, he said, had not been for the qualities he had shown he would have as Prime Minister. It was not just a question of Mr Foot's experi-

Challenge on cost of free school places

By Tim Devlin
Education Correspondent

Central and local government were spending between £50m and £100m a year on free and assisted places at independent schools, comprehensive school campaigners said yesterday.

Dame Margaret Miles, former headmistress of Mayfield School, London, and chairman of the Campaign for Comprehensive Education, called for an investigation into how public money was being spent at a time of financial crisis.

The figures were described by the Independent Schools Information Service as a wild exaggeration.

The Department of Education and Science did not know how much was spent by local government.

A paper presented by the campaign at a press conference in London contained the results of returns from five local authorities. The campaigners declined to name the authorities, as the figures had been obtained confidentially, but they are understood to include Surrey, Bedfordshire, and possibly Bolton.

The returns showed that each spent an average of £50,000 a year on places at independent schools.

The campaign argues that that sample is typical, local government over the country would be spending about £50m or £60m. Central government departments were spending £20m a year on board school places for children of diplomats and those in the Armed Forces.

Professor Maurice Peston, former adviser to Mr Prentice when he was Secretary of State for Education and Science, said the likely bill for ratepayers and taxpayers was £100m a year, excluding £50m which he estimated independent schools received from benefits of their charitable status.

The five authorities in the campaign's survey paid the fees of pupils at an average of 400 pupils each. They were typical of the rest of the country, the 104 education authorities would be assisting more than 80,000 pupils.

The Department of Education and Science said that local authorities paid for 21,000 pupils at independent schools at January, 1975. The Independent Schools Information Service said its census returns showed that free and assisted places (including those paid for by government departments) totalled 18,427 in 1974-75.

It looked last night as if the campaign had included places taken up at direct grant schools, which are shortly to be phased out. The figure of £60m for charitable status is thought by the public schools to be a large exaggeration.

From Christopher Walker

The Northern Ireland Office was last night at the centre of an embarrassing controversy over the continuing secret contacts between its senior officials and members of the Ulster network of paramilitary groups.

It followed an incident at the Maze prison at Long Kesh, last Sunday when Mr Stanley Hilditch, the Governor, was seen by republican prisoners politely showing a four-man delegation of "loyalist" paramilitary leaders around a new but unoccupied cell block.

No official information about the guided tour was given until yesterday, when a Stormont Castle official confirmed that a delegation from the Ulster Loyalist Central Coordinating Committee had made a request to look round, which was agreed to.

The committee is the umbrella organization covering most of the armed paramilitary groups, which was responsible for organizing the violent protest against the opening of special category status last month. The new cells in B block visited at the weekend will house the first convicted terrorists denied special status under the new legislation.

No official details about the identity of the paramilitary delegation were available last night but it is understood to have included Mr Andrew Tyrrie, supreme commander of the Ulster Defence Association, and Mr John McKeague, a spokesman for the loyalist army council.

The Government refused to confirm or deny local reports that representatives from two illegal Protestant organizations, the Ulster Volunteer Force and the Red Hand Commandos, were also included.

Mrs McKeague, deputy chairman of the coordinating committee of Protestants, said that the tour was arranged after one of several meetings which the organization had attended with Northern Ireland Office representatives. He said the delegation would be meeting soon to decide whether the accommodation was acceptable and would pass on its decision to the Government.

The controversy comes at a delicate time when the Government is being repeatedly warned from all sides in Ulster about the dangers of allowing the vacuum created by the absence of the Convention to be filled by the extreme paramilitary groupings.

Soldier killed: During the morning a soldier was killed and two others were injured when a booby trap bomb planted by the Provisional IRA exploded while troops were searching an isolated Orange Hall near Lurgan. The dead man was Corporal Donald Traynor, aged 28, of Manchester, serving with the 3rd Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Fingert. He was the second soldier killed in Ulster this year.

Men in raft were too weak to hold lifeline

The ordeal of 13 seamen in a leading lifeboat was described at a Department of Trade inquiry at Swansea, yesterday into the loss of the cargo ship Lovat off Penzance in January, 1975.

Eleven men lost their lives. Mr Michael Thomas, QC, said that some of the men were wearing only tee-shirts. All had life-jackets except the master, "who seems to have given his to someone else."

A gale was blowing and waves were 30ft high. Men tried to bail out water with their shoes. Some of them got out and hung on to lifelines to preserve the efficiency of the raft for those inside. But they weakened through loss of body heat, and died before help arrived.

In the raft, water was four feet deep. Mr Thomas said there would be evidence that one man drowned in the raft. A canister of flares had been found, but the men's hands were too cold to open it.

By 8 am when an Irish vessel, the St. Patrick, arrived, those remaining in the raft were too exhausted to grasp a lifeline.

About 8.30, a Whirlwind helicopter lowered a diver, but he cut his line. In trying to provide a shield against the wind, the St. Patrick came too close and created turbulence which put the aircraft in difficulties.

In the raft the diver tried to

encourage and comfort the four men then still alive. When a Sea King helicopter arrived at 9.15, only two of the crew had survived.

Mr Thomas said that the lower tube of the lifeboat had been holed by fungus. The raft, which was made in 1961, should have been tested two weeks before the Lovat sailed from Swansea.

If it had been examined, it would have been condemned and the crew would have had a safe, sound, effective life-raft," he said. He submitted that the defects in the lifeboat were the prime cause of the heavy loss of life.

Mr John Koach, for the National Coal Board, said that the board had no knowledge of any ship having had difficulties with cargoes of washed anthracite duff. In May, 1974, when transport by road to Swansea docks was introduced, the board did not consider whether the change would adversely affect the moisture content.

"With the benefit of hindsight the board regrets not having given consideration to this matter in May, 1974," he said.

Having said that, the board leaves it to the court to consider how far, if at all, in the events that occurred, this omission contributed to the loss of the Lovat.

The hearing continues today.

Students' union likely to consider ballot voting

By Our Education Correspondent

The National Union of Students is almost certain to set up a working party to study the introduction of secret ballot voting for union elections.

At present 15 of the 17 executive members are elected by the eight hundred or so delegates who attend the union's twice-yearly conferences. About sixty candidates will contest the elections being held next week at the conference in Llandudno.

Proposals to change the voting system have come from Liberals, Conservatives and a group called Students for Representative Policies, who are coming to the conference in larger numbers than ever before. They expect to see the support of more than a hundred delegates for the working party.

Mr Charles Clarke, president of the union, said in London yesterday that the working party plan was likely to be approved. The executive had not made up its mind about the proposal, but the dominant grouping, did not oppose a working party provided it examined the union's constitution as a whole.

He said the Conservative student force had reached the highest peak of its strength.

From now on Conservative influence would wane, he believed.

Accommodation grants: The Government is to give grants to students for accommodation for students. Mr Preece, Minister for Housing and Construction, said in a parliamentary written answer yesterday.

Nearly 200,000 students lived outside halls of residence and away from home; that figure was expected to increase in the next five years.

In areas where student demand seriously impinged on the general housing market, particularly in areas of stress and pressure, housing schemes which in practice would be mainly occupied by students would be eligible for subsidy or grant, he said. A proviso was that they must contribute directly or indirectly to the general housing needs of the area.

Local authorities would be asked to make available for housing students land not required for educational purposes. The Department of the Environment will shortly approach housing, university and local education authorities about the proposals.

Paramilitary leaders inspected prison

From Christopher Walker

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Five field marshals at Montgomery funeral

By Henry Stanhope
Defence Correspondent

Five field marshals, one general, an admiral of the fleet and a marshal of the Royal Air Force will be the pall bearers when the funeral of Field Marshal Lord Montgomery of Alamein takes place tomorrow at St. George's Chapel, Windsor. The procession will leave Victoria Barracks at 11.05 am and march along Victoria Street, through Henry VIII Gate and Horsehoe Cloisters to arrive at the chapel for the 11.30 service.

The pall bearers will be Field Marshal Lord Birdwood, Field Marshal Sir Richard Hull, Field Marshal Sir Gerald Templer, Field Marshal Sir Geoffrey Baker, Field Marshal Sir Michael Carver, Major-General Sir Francis de Guingand, Lord Montgomery's Chief of Staff during the war, Admiral of the Fleet Sir Peter Hill-Norton and Marshal of the Royal Air Force Sir William Driess.

The family mourners will be Viscount Montgomery, Lord Montgomery's son; Colonel Brian Montgomery, his brother, and Mr Henry Montgomery, his grandson.

Overseas representatives will include: Dr. Roshdi Rifaat, Secretary-General of Arab League; General Alexander Haig, NATO Supreme Allied Commander Europe (SACEUR); General Sir Harry Trenchard, deputy SACEUR; Admiral David Gifford, Commander in Chief of US Marine Forces Europe; Marshal of Aviation Sir Roderick, Soviet Union; General Marcel Bigeard and General d'Aime Simon, France; General J. A. Desreux, Chief of Defence Staff, Canada; Major-General C. J. Banger, Major-General A. J. W. Witting, Netherlands; Lieutenant-General K. Jaeger, Denmark; Lieutenant-General H. J. Martin, South Africa; Major-General F. Sliwinski and Brigadier F. Sliwinski of Poland, who served with Lord Montgomery during the war; Mr Lance Barnard, Australia.

A Guard of Honour will be mounted by two officers and 48 men at St. George's Chapel beside Horsehoe Cloisters by the 2nd Battalion Coldstream Guards.

A salute of 19 guns will be fired by The King's Troop Royal Horse Artillery in the Long Walk. Chargers of The King's Troop RHA will pull the gun carriage bearing the coffin. On the coffin will be the field marshal's baton, sword, beret, together with the Union Jack.

China paid an official tribute to Lord Montgomery yesterday, in a message from Peking Mr Hua Kuo-feng, acting Prime Minister, spoke of his bravery in the fight against the Japanese aggressors during the Second World War. "On behalf of Chairman Mao Tse-tung and in my own name, I wish to express our deep condolences over the passing away of Field Marshal Montgomery as well as our sincere sympathy to the bereaved family."

Bernard Levin, ... 14

Tenants' safeguards
From today private landlords will have to advise tenants in writing of their basic rights under the law. When serving notice to quit, new regulations will mean that even after the notice has run out the landlord must get a court possession order before the tenant can be evicted.

Jail for widow murder
Charles Henry Derry, aged 28, was jailed for life at the Central Criminal Court yesterday for the murder of Mrs. Lilian Johnson, a widow of 65, at her home in Heme Hill, south London. He was said to have strangled her on her face and to have been unrecognisable.

Police question woman on bombing

A woman was still being questioned by Scotland Yard's counter-terrorism squad last night in connection with inquiries into recent bomb attacks in London. Her husband and their daughter, aged 15, were released.

The family were detained on Monday at their home in Walthamstow, east London, under the Prevention of Terrorism Act.

In Belfast earlier, Mrs. Maire

HOME NEWS

Steady rise in total of prisoners paroled pleases board chief

By Peter Evans
Home Affairs Correspondent

Two fifths of the prisoners whose cases were reviewed last year were granted parole, Sir Louis Petch, chairman of the Parole Board, disclosed yesterday.

Corresponding figures were 30.3 per cent in 1972, 31.5 per cent in 1973, and 32.8 per cent in 1974. Only 8 per cent were paroled in the early days of the scheme, he said.

Sir Louis, who was speaking at the annual meeting of the New Bridge, a prison after-care organisation, said that the jump in 1975 might have owed something to the Home Secretary's move in August to extend the granting of parole.

But in any case 1975 would have shown a substantial advance on the previous year. He suggested that the rising figure reflected the growing confidence and experience of the Parole Board and local review committees. He added: "The figures now are to my mind as good as or better than we could have hoped for at this stage."

Referring to Mr Jenkins's view in August that the use of parole could be extended, Sir Louis said he could foresee an increase in the number of prisoners obtaining it.

During 1975, 15,000 cases of more than 10,000 prisoners were reviewed, and about four thousand of them were paroled. In 900 cases that were without reference to the Parole Board, as the Home Secretary could release offenders with shorter sentences on the recommendation of local review committees.

'Kitten' cheapest to run at 55.11 miles a gallon

By Our Motoring Correspondent

The 750cc Reliant Kitten lived up to its claim as the most economical production car in Britain by averaging 55.11 miles a gallon during the three-day, 1,000-mile Total Economy Drive which ended in London yesterday.

Driven by Mr Malcolm Young, aged 35, an accountant with Rolls-Royce in Derby, the Kitten achieved the best consumption of any car in the competition and took first place in its class for cars up to one litre capacity. A Volkswagen Polo (51.61 mpg) and a Fiat 127 (50.24 mpg) came second and third in that class.

A Mini Clubman averaging 50.72 mpg and driven by Mr Michael Stevens, a car dealer from Cheltenham, won the class for cars between 1001 and 1300cc, followed by a

It had been suggested that the proportion of offenders recalled from parole for one reason or another could be used to judge whether the system was sufficiently venturous. The recall rate was 8.1 per cent in 1972, 7.5 per cent in 1973, 7.7 per cent in 1974 and 8.2 per cent in 1975.

The rate was not a satisfactory measure of success on parole, Sir Louis said. It included only recalls during the licence period and omitted those paroled who had offended during their licence period if they were not charged with their crimes until later.

Moreover, the figure could take no account of the reasons for recall. In fact, roughly half of those recalled were brought back because they were out of touch, and only half because of the commission of a further crime.

"Within the latter group, there is no doubt that even though the public might tolerate an increase in the recall rate for petty crimes against property they would take a very different view if more of the recalls were for violence against the person."

Short of an upset of the whole penal system, he did not think there would be any more in Britain towards more judicial procedure for the granting of parole.

"Thus I see parole remaining as a privilege, to be granted by administrative decision in the light of the prisoner's performance in custody and not as a right to be argued for by the prisoner or his representative before a court."

Campaign for coloured policemen does badly

By Clive Borrell

A £25,000 advertising campaign to recruit police officers from ethnic minorities living in Britain was described yesterday as disappointing by Sir Robert Mark, Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police, six months after the campaign was launched.

Since last October only 10 men and one woman have applied to join the force and only five are now left as "possible" entrants. Those who applied had roots in such countries as Kenya, West Indies, India, Nigeria, Sri Lanka, Uganda and Ghana. Of the 11, one withdrew his application, four failed to attend for interview and another failed a preliminary test.

Although few details of the remaining candidates are known, a spokesman said that the only woman applicant will persevere, for she speaks seven languages and has 10 O level and three A level certificates.

If she completes the course and is accepted into the force she will join the still small group of coloured officers working in London. At present there are 34 coloured men and six women officers. The Metropolitan Police has recently won competitive promotion examinations and will be made sergeant within the next few weeks.

Sir Robert, speaking at a press conference at Scotland Yard yesterday, was adamant that physical and educational standards would not be lowered to attract recruits.

He said: "We shall persevere until we strike the right balance, but I do not believe that we will solve this situation by varying our standards."

"A police constable is a shock absorber between conflicting groups in a situation of tension, so he must be at high physical and educational standards. A man must be able to take care of himself in a potentially dangerous situation. Our real problem when it comes to recruiting officers from ethnic groups is one of communication. We have to overcome the disbelief that some minorities have of our sincerity."

"There are scores and scores of excellent black youngsters living in London and at our schools and we want them to consider trying a career to the police force. We will not take no for an answer."

Budget demand

A demand for special help in the Budget for one-parent families was made yesterday by the National Council for One Parent Families.



Princess Margaret and her son, Lord Linley, visiting the Wolverhampton "Express and Star" office yesterday.

Ban on non-NUJ journalists by trades councils

From Our Correspondent
Northampton

Trades councils at Kettering and Wellingborough, in Northamptonshire, have agreed to deal only with newspaper editorial staff who are members of the National Union of Journalists.

The decision came after a request by the Northamptonshire Association of Trades Councils, which passed a motion deploring press attacks on the union for attempts to set up a closed shop.

Now the county's four other trades councils, at Northampton, Corby, Deventry and East Northamptonshire, are to vote on the issue. Meanwhile the East Northamptonshire branch of the NUJ is supporting the move.

But the Northampton branch has rejected it, maintaining that it is an abuse to ban any bona fide journalist.

Minister rebukes MP over tale of IRA man at Yard

Mr Roy Jenkins, Home Secretary, yesterday criticized a fellow Labour MP for giving too much publicity to a report that a member of the Provisional IRA had infiltrated Scotland Yard's Special Branch.

Dismissing the report as "absolutely without foundation," he told Mr Robin Corbett, MP for Hernal Hempstead, that such false allegations could damage public morale in the present IRA bombing campaign.

Mr Corbett had asked him to investigate the allegation, which appeared in *Investors' Review*.

Mr Jenkins wrote to Mr Corbett that the report was "based on an old rumour, previously thoroughly investigated and previously denied."

"I would have hoped that at the present time you might have approached me in private rather than in public about this matter and only considered giving it publicity if the rumours were in any way subsequently confirmed."

It could do "grave damage to public morale at a time when the whole of the Metropolitan Police, including the Special Branch, are owed a considerable debt of public gratitude and support."

Mr Corbett last night accused the Home Secretary of giving a "petulant" reply. He wrote to Mr Jenkins: "I am not sure precisely how you divine the vintage of an allegation, but if this is one which, as you state, has been previously thoroughly investigated and previously denied, you might care to ask the Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police why he did not choose to make this clear when the inquiry was made of him by the press."

The commissioner could and should have firmly and earlier nailed the accusation for what you are now able to tell me it is—absolutely without foundation."

Reward for A2 gang raised to £25,000

Reward money for the capture of the A2 raiders, who on Saturday murdered Mr David Cross, a Securitor guard, and stole £102,000, rose to £25,000 yesterday when an insurance company offered £10,000.

Two cars left by the raiders were removed before the robbery by the police, unaware that the gang intended to use them, it was disclosed yesterday.

A passer-by saw two Ford Corsairs being parked in Chancery Road, Dartford, Kent, about a mile from the robbery scene and was suspicious when the occupants left the keys in the cars, Det Supt Jim Smith, one of the officers leading the hunt for the five robbers, said.

The raiders' original escape car, a blue Austin three-litre, was found abandoned at the Plough public house, in North End Road, Erith.

Mr Smith said: "The gang must have struck out like a sore thumb in the vehicle as they were carrying 14 sacks of money. We are appealing for witnesses to their overloaded vehicle."

Ignorance 'could cost lives in bomb blasts'

Lives could be lost unnecessarily after a bomb explosion because too many people do not know how to react in an emergency, the British Red Cross Society said yesterday.

"Few people could forgive themselves if they had stood around helplessly after an explosion," Major-General John Gray, the society's chief medical officer said. "If passers-by know what to do, lives can be saved, but if they do not, the results will be far more horrible than they need be."

Too many people felt that they would be able to leave everything to the experts, but those experts could not necessarily be on the scene straight away and minutes could be vital.

In brief

No broadcast of Budget speech

Plans for a live radio broadcast next week of the Chancellor of the Exchequer's Budget speech have been dropped by the Government after strong objections from Conservative leaders (our Political Staff writes).

A motion approving the broadcast from the chamber of the House of Commons would have to be passed by MPs before the BBC and the independent broadcasting authorities could go ahead, and the Government has decided not to put down such a motion.

Barrister's death 'misadventure'

A verdict of misadventure was recorded yesterday at the resumed inquest in London on Miss Jill Bannister, a barrister, who was found dead at the home of Mr Robert Flach, a deputy circuit judge, in North End Road, Erith.

Professor James Cameron, a pathologist, said there was an extremely high level of alcohol and drugs in Miss Bannister's body.

Man feared prosecution
Mr Harold Ernest Langley Piper, aged 83, of Woodside Park Road, Church End, Finchley, jumped to his death from a bridge on the M1 because he feared prosecution for shoplifting. He did not know it had been decided to drop the case, a Hounslow inquest was told yesterday. A verdict of suicide was recorded.

Actor divorced

Mrs Margaret Troughton, wife of Mr Patrick Troughton, aged 55, who was at one time Dr Who in the television series, was granted a decree nisi in the London Divorce Court yesterday because they had lived apart for more than five years.

Hospital reopens

Hillingdon Hospital, near Uxbridge, Middlesex, was reopened yesterday after being closed to admissions for 24 hours while the death of a man from straphylococcal pneumonia was investigated.

Metropolitan areas 'basis for devolution'

By Our Local Government Correspondent

The metropolitan counties could form the basis for English regional government, according to Mr Robin McCull, who retires as secretary of the Association of Metropolitan Authorities at the end of next month.

In an interview in the magazine *Municipal Review*, he says the metropolitan counties are not significantly smaller in population and resources than Wales. The average metropolitan county "could well turn out to be a stronger structure than a single Welsh national or regional authority, which with its North-South disparity will have internal conflicts on nearly every subject."

He believes there is nothing to prevent the continuation of the present metropolitan structure in a provincial role.

Mr McCull says that it is "quite manifest" that if some regional devolution of finance and economic and political decision-making is made to Scotland and Wales then the demand for some equivalent solution in England will be unavoidable.

"If that situation develops, it would be better to have a regional system based on directly elected local authorities than a regional tier of government which would be a weakening structure intervening between local authorities and Whitehall and Westminster."

"I cannot see why elected

regional authorities cannot be the present metropolitan counties, with appropriate provision for joint committees or other joint consultative machinery on matters extending beyond the metropolitan boundaries."

Looking back on a career of 40 years in local government, including 25 years as town clerk of Winchester, Mr McCull says local government remains one of the few institutions that can argue their case from strength.

"There was much that could be devolved to bureaucracy, but policy decisions were best made by elected people. New priorities and new initiatives cannot be well organized in the modern world in the absence of some form of elected machinery," he says.

BBC wins three awards for television news

By a Staff Reporter

Three of the five British Television News Film of the Year awards for 1975, made by the Royal Television Society, have gone to the BBC. They were presented yesterday by Sir Geoffrey Cox, a director of Television.

The winners were:
Portfolio and Camera of the Year: Peter Bignall, BBC Television News, for his entry "Belfast Rioting: Belfast Smokes and Rain" (sound recordist, Roy Bennett).

Regional news award: Roy Pace, Southern Television, for "For the Love of Helen".

Hard news: Bill Nicol, BBC Television News, for "Cold War Confrontation" (sound recordist, Andy White).

News (team) award: David Brooker and Ron Turrell, BBC Television News (North), for "Leeds Old is Manchester Old" (sound recordist, Terry Meadowcroft and Chris Street).

News feature: William Bravos, Thames Television, for "Revolt against the Communists" (sound recordist, Ron Thomas).

Harris weavers vote on future

Bullet papers which may decide the future of the ailing Harris tweed industry were received yesterday by the 530 self-employed weavers in the Outer Hebrides.

They are being asked to decide whether to accept plans for reorganizing the industry, the main proposal being the introduction of a double width power woven cloth instead of the traditional single width (29in) hand woven tweed.

Fire at 'Mail' office

The top floor of Northcliffe House, home of the Daily Mail and Evening News at Fleet Street, was damaged by fire yesterday.

Transport demands to fit the environment urged

From Arthur Osman
Birmingham

Mr Gilbert, Minister for Transport, said yesterday that government priority must be to see that future transport development was tempered with social and environmental considerations.

Addressing a transport conference of the Association of Metropolitan Authorities at the National Exhibition Centre in Birmingham, he said: "It has always been my view that a considerable part of public resistance to new roads reflects a hostility not so much to the roads but to the environmental aspects of the traffic. We have in make a major attack on the major environmentally offensive aspects of road transport of all types."

The minister's view will be reinforced today when Mr George Park, his parliamentary private secretary, tells the conference that a sense of balance between environment, safety considerations and the benefits of mobility must be achieved.

Mr Park says: "The days of

rolling carpets of asphalt across our countryside are gone, but this does not mean that we should turn away from the car. It does not mean we should see public transport with a wary eye and it does not mean block subsidies."

"I suggest it means a mixture of subsidy, of incentive, of provision for road, rail, car and passenger transport," he says.

Questioned about subsidies, Mr Gilbert said: "Nothing would please me more than to hold down bus fares for ever. But we have to be realistic about this. If you go on doing that there is less money available from the transport budget for investment."

He said he would like to see a national concessionary fares scheme, but there was a great range of such schemes in existence. They cost about £45m a year. Any introduction of a national scheme obviously involved the question of cost and there would be administrative difficulties.

British Rail budget curbs 'will kill improvements'

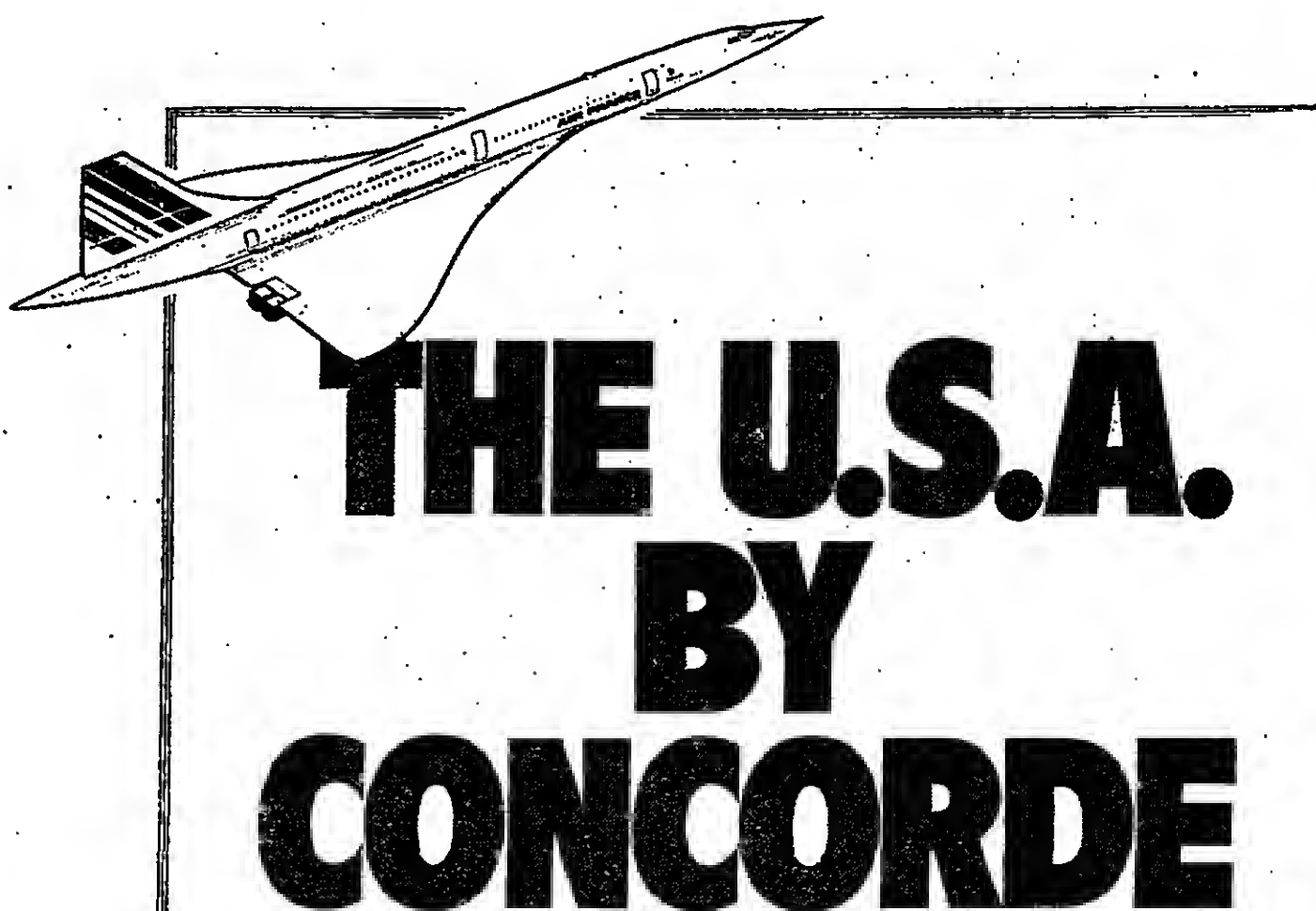
Plans to peg British Rail's annual investment at this year's level of about £200m will kill off many projects designed to win new business and cut costs, Mr Paul Goldsack, editor of *Jane's World Railways*, says in his foreword to the latest edition.

He maintains that few nationalized railway systems are getting a fair deal from their governments. British Rail and German Federal Railways, for instance, have had their investment budgets cut to a

minimum, "at a time when the only solution to a growing financial dilemma lies in improving railways' facilities."

In contrast to British Rail's £195.4m, French Railways are to spend about £325m, South Africa £481m, and Belgian National Railways, with less than a quarter of Britain's network, £281m.

Jane's points out that London's Underground system is to receive a capital improvement injection of £47.4m this year, while the Paris Metro network will get £274.7m.



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HOME NEWS

Pursuer is unable to say positively that Peter Hain was thief

Mr Timothy Hayne, a bank clerk, who pursued a thief to snatch a £490 note, said at the Central Criminal Court yesterday that the thief, who resembled the man he pursued, was not Peter Hain.

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reasures of 30 countries in film festival

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Article 'attempt to punish union chief'

By Christopher Thomas

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Above: the Diomedes' holed port side. Below: Captain Robert McQueen inspecting the damage to her interior.

Frigate damaged in cod war limps back home

From Our Correspondent

The frigate HMS Diomedes, whose wardroom was badly damaged in a cod war incident off Iceland on Saturday, limped into Rosyth dockyard yesterday.

The Diomedes was involved in a chase lasting two and a half hours with the Icelandic gunboat Baldur, during which there were four collisions. The Diomedes sustained a gash 20ft long and 3ft wide along her port side.

First the frigate damaged the Baldur's bridge with her bow. The Baldur retaliated by damaging the frigate's bow. Then the Diomedes dented the Baldur's starboard side. Finally, the Baldur's stern ripped the Diomedes' port side open.

"It ripped us open like a tin opener," said Captain McQueen, of Glasgow, said.

"We were at action stations and the wardroom was manned by the medical team as an emergency operating theatre. Fortunately I had previously instructed all personnel there to sit in the inside part of the

wardroom. All of them were lucky to escape serious injury. "The tactics of the gunboat skippers are very dangerous, and it can only be a matter of time before there is a tragedy," Captain McQueen had to reduce speed to avoid shipping water on the port side, but managed to keep the Baldur away from 19 British trawlers until the frigates Mermad and Galilea arrived and escorted the gunboat back to the 12-mile limit. She proceeded to Rosyth, in gale conditions, after repairs.

The Diomedes was rammed six times during a three-week patrol. "Every time the gunboat scored a hit their crews cheered and treated it with great glee," Captain McQueen said. "There is no doubt in my mind that these ramming were deliberate, and people are going to get badly hurt or even killed at some stage."

Experts began an examination of the damage to the ship, but it has yet to be decided whether she will be repaired at Rosyth or return to her home port, Chatham. She will be out of commission for several weeks.



Mrs Losinska: Opposes left-wingers.

But Mr William Kendall, the union's general secretary, who was not in court, said in an affidavit that he was not aware of anything that might have led to the association since 1962 that could endanger security procedures in the public service.

He added: "Nor do I know of any grounds for saying that the outcome of the forthcoming election, whatever that outcome may be, could have such an effect."

Mr Alexander Irvine, for Mrs

Losinska, said the plain object of the proposed circular and article in *Red Tape* was to punish Mrs Losinska by diminishing her standing in the eyes of the membership in a way that was likely to prejudice her prospects for reelection.

The union's national executive committee had approved a resolution on March 3, by 17 votes to 8, denouncing "the improper use of the office of president of the CPGB to attack the properly authorized activities of some members of both this association and other public sector trade unions."

The case continues today.

WEST EUROPE

Madrid 'ends chance of peaceful change'

From Our Correspondent

Madrid, March 30

One of the leaders of Spain's newly formed opposition alliance said on his release today after a night of police interrogation that the Government had wrecked all chances of a transition to democracy by negotiation.

Senior Raul Morodo was one of the six leaders of the Democratic Alliance arrested last night by secret police just as they were to give a press conference setting out the aims of the new organization now Spain's biggest opposition grouping.

He said the Government's action was a political blunder, which "had wrecked the possibility of negotiations". But he added that the alliance would continue to campaign for democracy whatever happened.

Three left-wing leaders of the alliance, including Senator Marcelino Camacho, leader of the powerful underground trade union movement, were still held at Madrid police headquarters today.

The new grouping unites the Communist-formed Democratic Junta and the Platform of Democratic Convergence, linking Socialists and Christians Democrats.

The aims it intended to announce last night include the rapid dismantling of the Franco regime and the formation, with members of the present Government, of a provisional government to oversee the transition to democracy.

Spanish newspapers and news agencies have been warned by the Government not to print the alliance's manifesto. Press reports have repeatedly referred to the organization as communist.

The reports are seen as an attempt to discredit the joint front and alienate it from public opinion.

Meanwhile, a worker was shot dead at a factory near San Sebastian today. ETA, the extreme Basque separatist group, is suspected.

Riots for democracy: Senior José Vidal Beneyto, of the Democratic Junta, told the Royal Institute of International Affairs in London that Spalo was ripe for democracy. He is the representative of the Socialist Confederation in the Paris-based committee of the Junta.

Senior Beneyto said the Spanish Government was manoeuvring to present a democratic facade but the King had not grasped the opportunity to develop real democracy.

Spain was now a developing industrial country with a managerial class convinced that full integration into the EEC was a precondition of economic development.

Federal issues dominate poll for Stuttgart assembly

State vote last test of opinion before German general election

From Dan van der Vat

Bonn, March 30

Next Sunday's state parliamentary election in Baden-Württemberg is the last great test of voters' opinion before the federal general election on October 3.

Leaders of all three main parties in West Germany's most prosperous Land have given up all pretence in the closing days of the campaign that anything but federal issues dominate the election, which they acquire even more importance for politicians in Bonn.

At the last election for the Stuttgart legislature four years ago, the Christian Democrats (CDU), in opposition at federal level, won a handsome absolute majority of 52.9 per cent of the total vote of a turnout of 80 per cent.

The Social Democrats (SPD) got 37.5 per cent and the Free Democrats (FDP) 8.9 per cent. A coalition of these two parties holds power in Bonn and hopes to do the same in Baden-Württemberg after Sunday.

Their chance is slender. Opinion polls suggest that while the FDP may be able to reach double figures, the SPD can expect to lose ground. The only question is how much they will drop. It would be a serious political upset if the two parties combined were able to break the CDU's absolute majority, which at present gives the party 65 seats in a 120-seat legislature (SPD 45, FDP 10, an overall majority of 10).

Although national issues, like the recent controversy over the Polish treaties and whether the FDP is moving towards the CDU in its future coalition calculations, have been addressed to the politicians, state issues have not been left out.

Education, the economy and its future development in the Land are among the local issues. As the chief candidate of the FDP, Dr Johann Kranz, said, "It is a rotten luck that our election is now so close to the general election. We ought to be able to fight on local policies for local problems."

Dr Hans Filbinger, aged 62, prime minister for 10 years and the very model of what the West Germans call a *Landesvater* (state-father) is leading the CDU campaign. His taste for sonorous oratory, avuncular manner and frothy baldness suggest a senator of ancient Rome.

The SPD candidate for prime minister is Dr Erhard Eppler, aged 49, one of West Germany's more remarkable political figures. After six years as federal Minister for Overseas Aid, he resigned in

principle in 1974, because his aid budget was cut in a Bonn government economy drive, and returned to his home state.

Dr Eppler's profound Protestantism—he is a senior lay official of the Evangelical Church—is not going to help him much in this deeply Roman Catholic state. A carefully worded pastoral letter, read out in churches last Sunday, contained a reminder that the SPD favoured abortion on demand, and was seen by Dr Eppler as a clear hint to vote CDU.

The general election result in Baden-Württemberg will not necessarily be a carbon copy of Sunday's voting. As 1972 showed, in the general election that year, turnout in the state went up to 90.2 per cent, with the CDU getting 49.8 per cent of the total, the SPD 38.9 and the FDP 10.2 per cent. This year, the interval will be a month shorter.

Baden-Württemberg has a population of 9.2 million, of whom about 6.1 million are entitled to vote. It also has a distinctly lower unemployment rate than the national average.

Sunday's vote therefore cannot be used as the basis for a totally accurate forecast of the result nationally or locally on October 3, but it will be a much better pointer than any opinion poll.

EEC food labelling system aims to help consumers

From Michael Horneby

Brussels, March 30

A uniform system of labelling foodstuffs in the EEC has been proposed by the European Commission as a means both of protecting consumers against fraudulent or misleading claims and of removing obstacles to free trade created by the different labelling methods prevailing in member states.

One of the main recommendations of the Commission directive, which is to be considered by the Council of Ministers, is that foodstuffs should be clearly marked with the date until which they will remain "wholly edible" and retain their "specific properties".

In most EEC countries, food products either give no such indication or else mention a date by which the item must be sold.

The date, which should generally include the day, month and year, should be preceded by the words "Will keep until", the Commission recommends. Codes should not be used, and all particulars on

labels should "be printed in clearly legible and indelible characters".

Other information on labels should include the name under which the product is sold, a list of ingredients, the net quantity (in the case of pre-packed foodstuffs), special conditions for storage or use, and the name and address of the manufacturer, packer or retailer.

The Commission's directive also asks member states to prohibit all forms of display, advertising, packaging or labelling of food products which lay claim to unproven medicinal or other special properties. An exception is made of "certain dietetic and dietary foods and spa waters".

If member states approve the directive, they would be required to amend national legislation within one year. After two years, they would be obliged to open their markets to all products complying with the directive, and after three years to prohibit trade in products which still did not comply.

Protest hits Concorde test flight

From Our Own Correspondent

Paris, March 30

About 50 trainee airline pilots today delayed a French Concorde test flight for several hours by sitting on the runway at MontPELLIER airport in south-west France.

The National Civil Aviation School trainees were protesting at the decision of M. Marcel Cavaillès, Secretary of Transport, to stop recruiting airline pilots this year and next because of the economic slump.

The demonstrators finally allowed the Concorde to take off for Toulouse, where the French version of the supersonic aircraft is made.

France's three main airlines have announced that because of the slump's effect on aviation they will not be making any big recruiting effort before 1982.

The demonstrators demanded that M. Cavaillès keep the promises of job prospects they were given when they first entered the school.

Cairo in accord with Bonn

Bonn, March 30—President Sadat of Egypt had a three-hour talk today with Herr Schmidt, the West German Chancellor, on the second day of his visit, at which the two leaders have agreed a lasting peace in the Middle East is possible by negotiation.

Elsewhere, Herr Genscher, Foreign Minister of West Germany, and Mr Fahmy, his Egyptian counterpart, signed agreements providing Egypt with capital aid worth £20m and a low-interest credit of £26m.

King hears of Andalusia water shortage

From Harry Dehalus

Seville, March 30

King Juan Carlos accepted the adulation of thousands who jammed the main square of Carmona, near Seville, today.

The King and Queen Sophia had earlier visited a new housing estate in Seville then driven to Carmona, a hill-top town about 25 miles to the east.

In Carmona, on the second day of his week-long tour of western Andalusia, the King listened to local authorities who told him about the need for irrigation of the surrounding

farmland. The Government has offered to share the cost of irrigation with the landowners.

Carmona's open welcome of the royal couple today was especially significant as less than two years ago the Guardia Civil had shot dead one person in riots over the water shortage.

The King and Queen inaugurated a government-run inn. It was opened at a moment when concern is growing over the increasing numbers of cancellations by foreign travel agencies. Hotel owners and others in the catering business are blaming press reports of strikes and

demonstrations for frightening the tourists away.

Senior Ignacio Aguirre, the newly appointed Under-Secretary for Tourism, who attended today's inauguration, has already halted plans for a number of other new inns in order to cut the losses caused by the drop in tourism.

The King and Queen were cheered wherever they went in this largely agricultural region of Andalusia. There was a distinct atmosphere of a fiesta in the villages, with many children in the audiences as schools were closed for the day.

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Yard men again remanded

Twelve retired or suspended Scotland Yard men were again remanded on bail at Bow Street Magistrates' Court yesterday until committal proceedings start. All are charged with conspiracy.

The 12 men, who include Wallace Virgo, former head of the murder squad, and Kenneth Drury, former head of the Flying Squad, were remanded on bail of £5,000 each.

Two jailed over escort agency prostitution

A jury at the Central Criminal Court, who had been told that two Mayfair escort agencies had been fronted for prostitution, and that among the clients were princes, rich Arabs, and "sons of famous people" yesterday convicted five people.

Joseph Wilkins, aged 39, was sentenced to a total of three-and-a-half years imprisonment. His "first lieutenant", Walter Birch, aged 42, received 30 months. Both were convicted of living off the earnings of prostitutes operating from the Eve Escort Agency, in Brook Street, and La Femme International, of June Street.

Mrs Pearl Wilkins, of Logmoor Green Farm, Westcott, near Dorking, was convicted of aiding and abetting her husband to live off immoral earnings and manage Eve Escort while an undischarged bankrupt.

Judge Lawson, QC, said that because she had led a stormy life as the wife of Mr

Wilkins she would be conditionally discharged.

Miss Kathleen Andoo, aged 22, Mr Birch's girl friend, in Cadogan Square, Belgrave, was convicted of controlling prostitutes at both agencies and given a 15-month suspended sentence.

Wijtha Uduvanna was convicted of living off earnings of prostitutes at La Femme International, where he had been employed as general handyman. He was given a six-month suspended sentence.

Two other men were discharged. The jury were unable to agree in the case of David Fraser, aged 27, of Aldron House, Water Drive, Brixton, who denied living off the earnings of prostitutes.

The prosecution offered no evidence and the judge directed that a verdict of not guilty be entered. Roy Hilder, aged 28, of Gilkes Crescent, East Dulwich, was found out guilty of assault.

Another council official is suspended

By a Staff Reporter

Another senior council official in Manchester has been suspended from duty after police inquiries in the city relating to items of office equipment.

Mr Alan Glover, purchasing officer with Manchester City Council, has been suspended by the head of his department, Mr James Hetherington, the city treasurer pending internal inquiries.

Last Friday Mr Joe Cooper, head of Greater Manchester County Council's public relations department was suspended.

Mr Glover, aged 46, of Leywood, Lancashire, has been in charge of a central purchasing pool at Manchester town hall for the past four years.

EEC urged to agree over direct elections

From Michael Horasby

Brussels, March 30 — A "solemn appeal" to EEC heads of government not to postpone their promised approval of a convention providing for direct elections to the European Parliament when they meet in Luxembourg later this week was made here today by M. Georges Spenale, the Parliament's president.

He said that failure to take a decision would deal "a serious blow" not only to the high reputation of the European Council, as the summit is called, but also to the hopes raised last December, when heads of Government agreed that direct elections should take place in May or June of 1978.

M. Spenale disclosed that he had received a letter from Mr. Gaston Thorn, the Luxembourg Prime Minister and present EEC president, assuring him that the question of direct elections would be treated "as a matter of priority" in the summit discussions on Thursday and Friday.

Despite this assurance, there is doubt in Brussels about how much time the summit will have for direct elections, or the Tindemans report on European Union, in view of a recent French request that the economic and monetary crisis should head the agenda.

What the heads of government will be asked to approve in Luxembourg is the text of a convention providing for direct elections, most of the clauses of which are no longer in dispute. Several key elements, however, remain the subject of controversy, after failure to resolve them at foreign ministers' level.

The position of Mr. Callaghan, the Foreign Secretary, is close to that of the European Parliament itself. This is that while direct elections should be as far as possible, small states must be ensured a minimum reasonable representation; but he is also concerned that Scotland and Wales should be adequately represented, which raises the rather different issue of regionalism.

From what Mr. Callaghan said yesterday in the House of Commons, it seems fairly clear that the British representative will not be in a position to commit the Government finally on direct elections at this week's EEC summit. Even more serious, in the view of some Brussels observers, is the Gaullist pressure on President Giscard d'Estaing to withhold approval for direct elections.

M. Spenale said he was satisfied that there had been no retreat by Britain from its commitment to the principle of direct elections.

What would be inextricable, M. Spenale said, would be for the nine to allow the practical problems of introducing direct elections at the national level to serve as a pretext for postponing the necessary joint declaration of the Community.

The practical problems decision had been taken and ratified by national parliaments.

Our Political Staff writes: In a letter to each head of government, M. Spenale said, "I am sending you a copy of the European Parliament's resolution of March 11, which urged that a definite decision should be made at the Luxembourg summit meeting. M. Spenale said the resolution referred to "a wide measure of agreement on the principle of direct elections".

OVERSEAS

Israel troops reported massing near border with Lebanon

From Paul Martin

Beirut, March 30 — The Christian right gave a warning today that Israeli troops and armour were massing on Lebanon's southern border as the deft left stood firm against mounting pressure for a ceasefire. Fears of a military intervention from Syria and Israel have reached a peak after the American warning to both countries not to send in their armies.

As the country endured its most savage 24 hours of fighting on all fronts in the 11 months of civil war, the leader of the unsuccessful coup against President Franjeh urged army rebels on either side to observe a ceasefire. Broadcasting on Lebanon radio, Brigadier Aziz Abidat said that it had become a matter of the utmost urgency to halt the civil war.

Events are getting out of control with the Army split between the Muslim and Christian sides in the battle for Beirut port and for Mount Lebanon. Syria is relying on Mr. Yassir Arafat, the Palestinian guerrilla leader, to exercise the pressure on Mr. Kamal Jumblatt and his vicious leftist forces that it had not been able to exert itself.

However, 24 hours after initiating his contacts with Mr. Jumblatt, Mr. Arafat had not succeeded in securing the ceasefire necessary to ease the situation. Mr. Jumblatt has made clear that he intends to keep on fighting until he achieves political victory. He wants the President's resignation and acceptance of his radical political reforms.

The warning that Israel was preparing to enter the conflict militarily was issued by the Phalangist radio which speaks for the right-wing Christian militias. It said that the concentrations of armour and troops had built up over the night and that the Israelis had established checkpoints inside the Lebanese border.

This is not the first time that the Phalangists have reported intervention plans by either the Israelis or the Syrians. It comes at a time when an intervention by either party is considered more than likely. The Syrians had earlier moved troops up to the Lebanese border as their peace initiative was resented by leftist military advances in the latest phase of the war.

Unless the left agrees to a ceasefire it is certain that the

civil war will bring even greater bloodshed and chaos than in the past week of country-wide fighting. As both sides were looked in battle in the Beirut port area and in the hills overlooking it last night, tanks, heavy artillery and mortars were used in the residential areas on either side.

At least 250 people were killed and hundreds wounded. From just after midnight there were explosions at the rate of one every five seconds for long periods as tanks held by army rebel units of both Muslims and Christians shelled each other's populations.

Round the slopes of Mount Lebanon, leftist armies and right-wing Christians pounded each other in an unrelenting struggle for strategic villages. The leftists' advance in the mountains appears to have been blunted for the moment, but the Christian defenders have begun to show signs that the enormous military pressure on them is beginning to tell.

From the beginning of the latest campaign they have favoured outside intervention—be it Syrian, Israeli or from the West—to impose the kind of solution they wanted. However Mr. Jumblatt has calculated that such an intervention would not be politically feasible and this has encouraged him in his campaign.

It is for this reason that he has not been in any hurry to halt his forces in the field. Today he met the leaders of the other main leftist forces. They are expected to produce a common stand within 24 hours. Earlier he had been reported to be holding a wider meeting, including Mr. Arafat in his mountain hideout.

Mr. Arafat and other Palestinian leaders, including Dr. George Habbash, of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, met at a rally in Beirut to mark solidarity with the demonstrators on the Israeli-occupied West Bank.

The appearance of Mr. Arafat and Dr. Habbash on the same platform demonstrates the closing of Palestinian ranks in Lebanon to sabotage the attempts by the Syrians to impose peace. For the past week the radical rejection wing of the Palestinian movement has spearheaded the fighting in the Beirut port area. Mr. Arafat's mainstream forces led by his own Fatah group have lent their weight in the mountain war.

Performance in mental patient role wins Oscar

Los Angeles, March 30 — Jack Nicholson won a Hollywood Oscar here last night, after four unsuccessful nominations, for his role as a rebel patient in a lunatic asylum in *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*.

His award for best actor was one of five Oscars awarded to the film by the American Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences. "I guess this proves there are as many outs in the academy as anywhere else," the actor, who is 39, said as he accepted his statuette.

His co-star, Louise Fletcher, broke down in tears when she won the best actress award for her performance as a tyrannical nurse. The film also collected awards for best picture, best adapted screenplay and the best director, Mr. Milos Forman, a Czechoslovak expatriate.

The Czechoslovak authorities gave his twin 11-year-old sons a 10-day visa to visit their father. "It is a great thrill; it is like a miracle," he said as he hugged them.

The film was the first to win all the senior awards since *It Happened One Night*, which Clodette Colbert and Clark Gable, in 1934.

The award for best supporting actor went to 80-year-old George Burns, who stepped into the role of a comically old comedian in *The Sunshine Boys* after the death of his friend Jack Benny.

Other awards were: best supporting actress: Lee Grant, for her portrayal as an unfaithful wife in *Shampoo*.

best foreign film: *Scent of a Woman*, directed by Dino Lisi of Italy and starring Vittorio Gassman.



Jack Nicholson and Louise Fletcher after receiving Oscars for their roles in "One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest".

Best original screenplay: *Dog Day Afternoon*, by Frank Pierson.

Best original song: "I'm Easy", from the film *Nashville*, words and music by Keith Carlini.

Best original score: *Jaws*, by John Williams.

Best costume design: *Barry Lyndon*, by Ulla-Britt Soderlund and Mileno Canonero.

Best adapted score: Barry Lyndon, by Leonard Rosenham.

Best art direction: Barry Lyndon, by Ken Adam and Roy Walker (art direction) and Vernon Dixon (set direction).

Best cinematography: Barry Lyndon, by John Alcott.

Best editing: *Jaws*, by Verna Fields.

Best animated short film: *Great*, by Boh Godfrey.

Best feature-length documentary: *The Man Who Skied Down Everest*, from Canada.

Best live action short film: *Angel and Big Joe*, by Bert Galzman Productions.

Best sound: *Jaws*, by Robert Hoyt, Roger Newman, Earl Madery and John Carter.

Best short subject documentary: *The End of the Game*, by Claire Wilbur and Robin Leiman-Reuter.

Mr Udall woos New York voters

From Peter Strafford

New York, March 30

Mr Morris Udall, the congressman from Arizona, poses for photographs in front of an almost completed new school to Queens which is being boarded up for lack of funds to finish it. "What kind of people are we?" he asks, denouncing the situation as an outrage.

This is typical of Mr Udall's approach to the New York state primary, to be held in a week's time. He is campaigning as the most liberal of the main Democratic candidates and is making a great deal of the need to divert federal funds to deal with domestic problems, particularly in the big cities.

In a speech yesterday, he described the urban crisis as "the most important domestic question that this country faces today". He criticized the Nixon and Ford administrations for ignoring the cities, and he outlined five measures that should be taken to deal with their difficulties.

The Federal Government should assume the costs of such national problems as welfare payments, the unemployment insurance system, federal investments should be made in the central cities to provide new jobs; the quality of life should be improved by a tough approach to crime; federal backing should be given to municipal bonds; and bureaucracy should be cut out in the allocation of federal funds.

This is a critical time for Mr Udall. He needs to do well both in New York and in Wisconsin, which holds its primary on the same day, if he is to keep his



US Elections 1976

candidate alive. He is dividing his time between the two states, as are his two main rivals in New York, Senator Henry Jackson and Mr Jimmy Carter.

He is a tall, good-looking man, with a good deal of charm in his manner, and a tendency to self-deprecation. He talks frequently about what he would do as President, but somehow fails to give the impression that he really believes he could be elected, or even nominated as the Democratic candidate.

That could change, of course, if he does well next week. For the moment, however, his campaign lacks the drive that Senator George McGovern, appealing to a broadly similar section of the electorate, managed to build up four years ago.

It is not for want of trying. His speech yesterday on the cities was made to an audience of students at Queens College, and he was cheered for many of his points. But members of his campaign staff conceded that there was a world of difference in the attitude of young people today, who were far less interested in radical change now that the Vietnam war was in the past.

In his proposals on the cities, Mr Udall is competing with Mr

Jackson, who also has a plan for solving their problems, including several of the same general ideas. But Mr Udall argues that there is one big difference from Mr Jackson's ideas. He is prepared to cut the defence budget substantially in order to pay for his proposals, whereas Mr Jackson is not.

(Mr Jackson argues that the extra revenue would come from reducing unemployment.)

The two men join in denouncing Mr Carter for speaking out against federal assistance to New York during its financial troubles last year. Mr Jackson says that he was one of the first to advocate assistance for New York, at a time when it was unpopular in Washington.

Mr Udall accuses Mr Carter of simply promising "greener pastures" and simpler visions rather than a detailed approach. Mr Udall can expect to lose much of the liberal Jewish vote to Mr Jackson because Mr Jackson is seen as the prime supporter of Israel. But he has been careful not to alienate the Jewish vote, and has joined Mr Jackson in denouncing last week's speech at the United Nations by Mr William Scranton, the American representative, with its criticism of Israeli policies.

He is on sure ground, however, when he calls for a general and unconditional amnesty for deserters and draft evaders from the Vietnam war period. The same is true of his tough line on the big corporations. He promises to take action against the big drug companies and to try to break up General Motors and the oil companies.

He has been equally critical of Concorde. It was "a turkey," he said recently and should not be allowed to land in the United States.

Mr Nkomo makes surprise visit to Lusaka

Lusaka, March 30 — Mr Joshua Nkomo, leader of the internal wing of the Rhodesian African National Council (ANC), has arrived here from Bulawayo for private talks with President Kaunda, it was learnt today. Mr Nkomo was believed to have briefed the Zambian leader on the latest political situation in Salisbury.

There was no official announcement of his surprise visit but nationalist sources said he met his supporters in Lusaka. Last week, after Mr Nkomo and Bishop Abel Muzorewa, leader of the rival external ANC, had attended the Lusaka summit on Rhodesia, Mr Nkomo told reporters that the question of the unification of the two factions of the ANC was not raised at the talks. But President Kaunda emphasized to local and foreign journalists yesterday the importance of the two groups coming together to face the common enemy.

Bishop Muzorewa, who had been retained behind to work out the mechanics of unity, flew to Nairobi yesterday on his way to Uganda for discussions with President Amin, chairman of the Organisation of African Unity.

The Government-owned *Zambia Daily Mail* in a leading article today called on ANC leaders to mobilize Rhodesian blacks into sabotage squads to aid the guerrilla war.

It suggested that squads should be set up to destroy bridges and sabotage factory machinery.

Pamphlets should be widely distributed showing how to disable engines and machinery and how to put sugar into the petrol tanks of police and army vehicles.

The newspaper also called on ANC guerrillas to nationalize white property in areas they might occupy and hand them over to villagers.

The editorial follows a call yesterday by President Kaunda to blacks in Rhodesia to launch an "effective internal war" on the Rhodesian whites by "blowing up bridges, putting sand into their petrol tanks, destroying roads and factories, poisoning cattle and other tactics".

Agence France-Presse.

Greece breaks off talks on American bases

From Our Correspondent

Athens, March 30

The Greek Government has broken off negotiations in Washington over the future of American bases in Greece. It was expected that the following the new defence agreement between the United States and Turkey, under this agreement, Turkey is to receive military aid worth \$1,000m (about £426m) over the next four years, in exchange for

allowing the reaction of a 26 American bases and listening posts in Turkey. The Greek leaders are seriously concerned that this large-scale military support for Turkey may upset the balance of power in the Balkans, and a particularly delicate phase of Greek-Turkish antagonism.

The Greek diplomat and military negotiating team under Mr Petros Kalogoras, which went to Washington a week ago, was recalled immediately after Friday's announcement that the United States-Turkish treaty had been signed. The mission flew back to Greece today.

The United States Government was told that in view of the new defence agreement with Turkey, Greece proposed to review its negotiating position on American bases here. Greek officials say that the United States evidently has agreed to a completely new set of rules in connection with its bases in Turkey, these rules should be taken into account by the Greek side in their own negotiations. No threats were made or implied.

The Greek leaders are now holding consultations on how to redress the balance of power with Turkey. They have been reassured by the Americans that Greece will be receiving this year aid in the range of \$200m to \$250m. This should roughly offset the grant to Turkey if taken on a yearly basis.

Furthermore, the United States Government would be willing to discuss with Greece

aid requirements for 1977, to help Athens to plan its defence purchases ahead. Washington also is aware that Greece would welcome a formal United States commitment guaranteeing the status quo in the Aegean. The commitment has already been given but only in the form of reassurances to both Greece and Turkey that America would "oppose" any aggression in the Aegean.

The Greek side, however, suspecting that Turkey covets the Greek islands of the eastern Aegean, has been pressing for a more substantial guarantee, possibly a pledge of American physical involvement in case of Turkish aggression in the area.

It was expected that such questions would have been discussed at the highest level when Mr Constantine Karamanlis, the Greek Prime Minister, made his planned visit to Washington some time in the early summer; but the latest developments may lead the Greek leader to reconsider his travel plans.

Our Ankara Correspondent writes: Turkish officials appeared satisfied today with the new defence agreement, although they expressed some reservation whether it would be ratified by the United States Congress. Mr Theodor Sabri Caglayanli, the Foreign Minister, who signed the agreement in Washington, was asked at a press conference in Ankara today how he thought the Congress would vote. He replied: "I am not yet blessed with the gift of prophecy."

Officials described the terms of the new agreement as being "more advanced than the previous one", signed in 1969, in that it contained articles which forbade American military aid to Turkey.

Mr Caglayanli also seemed happy during his press conference, despite an earlier, cautious statement in which he said: "This agreement will not doubt face criticism from certain circles, but I am prepared to defend my stand."

King Husain begins talks in Washington

Washington, March 30

King Husain of Jordan told President Ford today that the Middle East stood at the crossroads between war and peace and appealed for United States help in resolving its problems.

The King was speaking at a welcoming ceremony at the White House as he began two days of official talks with Mr Ford, Dr Henry Kissinger, the Secretary of State.

The Middle East needed the "wisdom and fortitude" of the United States, the King said. He was greeted by President Ford as a "force for reason and moderation in the Middle East" and as a loyal friend of the United States.—Reuter.

Tornadoes kill 11 and tear up town centres in US

From Our Own Correspondent

New York, March 30

Eleven people were killed, more than 200 injured, and hundreds made homeless by tornadoes which swept through Arkansas, Mississippi and Texas yesterday. The tornadoes tore up the central areas of towns in Arkansas and Mississippi.

In Arkansas, the worst affected was Cabot, a town 20 miles north-east of Little Rock, where five people were killed. Much of its centre, with shops and other businesses, was damaged. The whole main street was flattened, the sheriff's office reported.

Police, state troopers and members of the National Guard were ordered into the towns. Portable generators were brought in to supply emergency electricity, and work began on restoring telephone, gas and electrical services.

In Canton, Mississippi, five people were killed. A curfew was ordered last night in order to prevent looting in the debris.

Buildings were wrecked, oak trees uprooted, and part of the cupola on top of the court building was ripped off. The tornado also did damage in the countryside, tearing up a poultry processing plant and wrecking caravans.

US Supreme Court rules against 'unnatural acts'

From Our Own Correspondent

Washington, March 30

American homosexuals are much perturbed by yesterday's Supreme Court ruling that states may forbid unnatural acts by consenting adults in private. The court, without comment, ruled six to three that a Virginia appeals court was correct in sustaining the constitutionality of a law of that state prohibiting sodomy.

The ruling is a severe setback to the "Gay rights movement" which seeks to eliminate all laws directed against homosexuals. One of the plaintiffs in the original case said: "I am deeply disturbed and depressed by the Supreme Court's insensitivity to the right to privacy of all Americans."

The National Gay Task-Force said that the ruling was an enormous disappointment and ran counter to the national trend. He said that laws against sexual acts between consenting adults of the same sex had been repealed in 13 states. There are still laws against sodomy in 42 states and their constitutionality is now established.

The Virginia appeals court ruled that the law was valid because "it is enough for upholding the legislation to establish that the prohibited conduct is likely to end in a contribution to moral delinquency." The judges cited Leviticus: "Thou shalt not lie with mankind as with woman-kind: it is an abomination."

Head of US aircraft firm issues bribes denial

From Frank Vogl

New York, March 30

"We don't pay any bribes," said Mr John Bierworth, chairman of Grumman Corporation, which is one of America's largest military aircraft manufacturers.

Grumman has been in the middle of a controversy with the Government of Iran since the disclosure that its sales representative in Tehran was due to collect about \$24m (more than £12m) in commissions as a result of the sale of 80 Grumman F14 Tomcat fighter aircraft.

The United States Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) is now investigating the Grumman sales and studying the commission contracts of the representative.

Mr Bierworth insisted that the payments to him were for legitimate business purposes. The commission worked out to just under 2 per cent of the total contract value of the Grumman-Iran deal. The representative, however, has many substantial business costs and at no time was he instructed to make bribes, Mr Bierworth said.

The Grumman chairman added that the Government of Iran had not been overcharged on this deal and that since his recent trip to Tehran, he was confident that the whole matter would soon be satisfactorily concluded with the Iranian Government.

Over the last year a host of big American companies have gained publicity for allegedly paying bribes to promote foreign business and in almost every case the companies have made public admissions, although their leading executives have continually refused to discuss the bribery payments with journalists.

Mr Bierworth, whose company has found itself to be among those to have allegedly made questionable foreign payments, is probably the first chairman of a big American company to be willing to discuss bribes and to declare SEC investigations that Grumman has not been paying bribes.

Mr Bierworth told a group of foreign correspondents here that companies often had no alternative but to engage foreign consultants and representatives to promote sales, as the companies did not have the resources or the skilled executives to deal with foreign governments.

The F14 aircraft, he said, had no foreign consultants and Iran's interest in the aircraft had been brought to the attention of Grumman by the United States Department of Defence.

Most importantly, Mr Bierworth argued that bribery to international business was just not necessary. He said that companies engaging in bribery often found themselves in great difficulty, as their reputation spread and they became subject to more and more demands for greater payments.

Mr Bierworth pointed out that Grumman was already virtually at its capacity limit with manufacturing the F14 and it would not pay for it to go around bribing governments to secure more orders, as expanding plant capacity would be impractical at the moment.

The Grumman story also draws attention to the role of the Defence Department in all military aircraft deals. In almost all cases the department plays a key role in foreign military contracts and it is therefore continuing on every stage of the complicated negotiations involved before a government signs a weapons contract.

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Holland and Italy win pact on Lockheed deals

Washington, March 30 — The United States, which agreed yesterday in exchange evidence on the Lockheed bribery scandal with Holland and Italy, is now negotiating similar pacts with other countries, the Justice Department said today.

The first such agreement, in which information "relating to irregular payments by Lockheed to promote foreign sales of its aircraft" will be exchanged, was signed with Japan eight days ago.

Moscow embassy scare leaves Americans cold

From Our Correspondent

Moscow, March 30

For the second time in less than a week, there was a bomb scare at the American Embassy today. At noon, the Soviet Foreign Ministry telephoned Mr Clifford Gross, the consul general for consular affairs, to say that an anonymous caller had reported a bomb on the second floor, timed to go off at 1 pm.

The previous bomb scare, last Wednesday, was started by an anonymous call direct to the Marine security guard. Presumably the communication through official channels of diplomatic protocol was intended to make the hoax seem more plausible.

While nobody was impressed by the scare, the embassy was not taking any chances. The building was cleared of all occupants from the ambassador downwards. Women at the hairdressers were caught in disarray. Guests at private luncheon parties were hustled off before they could swallow the first cocktail.

Mr Walter Stoessel, the ambassador, who just returned

from the latest negotiating session on peaceful nuclear explosions, issued directions for the evacuation and instructions to the Marines to check the entire building. He was driven to Spaso House, the ambassador's residence. Some people who had been outside without their overcoats found shelter in the embassy snack bar, located in a separate building off the courtyard, and therefore considered safe.

But it was soon packed and many shivered in the cold March weather for an hour and a half until the main building had been declared safe. The delayed luncheons were warmed up and served, and life gradually returned to normal.

This second scare came as a surprise. Russians spoke of a "deplorable first one". One responsible official said that such tactics "far from serving as a reprisal for the harassment of Soviet staff in New York, simply played into the hands of the presidential candidates, Mr Ronald Reagan and Senator Henry Jackson."

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TERSEAS Makarios-Denktaş Interviews both deal with leadership issue

Edward Mortimer
March 30
Archbishop Makarios, president of Cyprus, and Denktash, the Turkish leader, have said in interviews with *The Times* that they would be prepared to consider standing in the way of a settlement of the Cyprus conflict.

Makarios also said in a further talk of the conflict (union with Greece) was only unrealistic and criticized Britain for its inactivity when Turkey invaded Cyprus in 1974. Denktash said he was not to submit proposals for settlement of the conflict.

Q. Many Turkish Cypriots believe that no settlement of the Cyprus problem is possible so long as you are President. Do you think you can win back their confidence or do you feel that, in certain circumstances, you could contribute to an acceptable settlement by stepping down?

A. For the solution of the Cyprus problem and the restoration of peace in Cyprus, I would be prepared not only to resign from the Presidency but also to sacrifice my life. I would be happy if the Turkish Cypriots submitted proposals for settlement of the Cyprus problem, even on condition that I would step down.

Mr Denktash, in the official residence in the Turkish sector of Nicosia which he occupies as Vice-President of the Cyprus Republic and as President of the de facto Turkish Federated State of Cyprus, referred to a recent book by a Greek Cypriot, Zeno Stavrinides, and said: "He suggests, in one of his pages, that the leader who has done all this to Turkey, Makarios, should really go. I agree with that wholeheartedly. He goes further and says the leader who did all this on the Turkish side to Greeks, Denktash, should also go. I do not agree with that, but if that would solve the problem, I would be able to consider it."

Mr Denktash said that more than 12 times in the past 12 weeks he had proposed a joint statement ruling out both enosis and partition, but so far without positive response from the Greek side. He added: "The must be said to those people openly, clearly, in simple words, enosis was a non-starter, was wrong and has brought destruction."

"Let us tell them that we do not want enosis, that enosis shall never be. We shall maintain our republic, our communal, disincorporated independence. Say this: 'If this is your policy, why can't you say it?'"

Mr Denktash agreed, however, that both the coup and the Turkish invasion had had a big effect on Greek Cypriot opinion on this point.

On the intercommunal negotiations, Mr Denktash said he was ready to submit proposals because he had not yet had proposals from the Greek side to which he could reply. He said it had been agreed at the last round of talks in Vienna that the Greek side would submit proposals first, and within 10 days, he would give his counterproposals.

Mr Denktash told a press conference that the United States would match a Soviet naval expansion in the Indian Ocean with a presence that would be "flexible, strong and on a permanent basis". He said: "If we believe in freedom, we must have the will, capacity and determination to make rough decisions to preserve that freedom."—Reuter.

Chinese split by arguments economic strategy

David Bonavia
March 30
China is in the extraordinary throes of a socialist country has embarked on the year of its fifth five-year plan without publicly disclosing any targets and with bitter arguments about its whole strategy apparently raging in the scene.

Mr Teng Hsiao-ping, the very Prime Minister, has been publicly accused of trying to make the plan too dependent on imports of foreign technology, and Mr Li Hsien-ni, the Politburo member responsible for economic affairs, has not been in public since January, when he was reported to be opening a cancellation of negotiations sessions are often a sign that extra political meetings are being held.

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Spacious modern house situated in a beautiful wooded area. The house is in excellent condition, with a modern kitchen, bathroom, and living room. It is a superb opportunity to acquire a superb property in the heart of the Cotswolds.

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Spacious modern house situated in a beautiful wooded area. The house is in excellent condition, with a modern kitchen, bathroom, and living room. It is a superb opportunity to acquire a superb property in the heart of the Cotswolds.

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PROPERTY WANTED

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PROPERTY TO LET

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LEGAL APPOINTMENTS

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ACCOUNTANCY

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Property

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SALES AND MARKETING

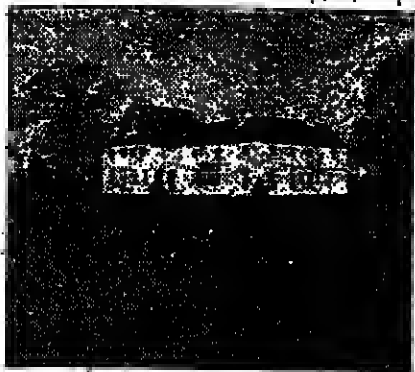
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SAVILLS

Country Properties



HAMPSHIRE—Odiham
Odiham 1 mile, Winchester station 2 miles—Waterloo 48 minutes, M3 3 miles. Fine country house, 3 reception rooms, study, 8 bedrooms, dressing room and 4 bathrooms, 2 secondary bedrooms and bathroom. Oil-fired central heating. Garages, stables, etc. Hard tennis court, garden and paddock. 6 1/2 acres. £57,500 (further 18 acres (let) available also cottage (let)).
SAVILLS, London, Tel.: 01-499 8644.
WELLER EGGAR, Farnham, Tel.: (02513) 6221.

SOUTH OXFORDSHIRE

Asen Upton

Didcot station 4 miles, Paddington 51 minutes, Reading 15 miles, Oxford 18 miles.
Fine, well modernised country house of Georgian origin but with mainly Edwardian elevations, with excellent accommodation in a superb position on the edge of the village with views to the downs. Fine panelled hall, 3 reception rooms, 6 bedrooms, dressing room, 4 bathrooms, passenger lift, oil-fired central heating, heated indoor swimming pool, self-contained 2 bedroomed staff annex, playroom, garage for 3, modern stabling. Garden with tennis court, small paddock. Just over 4 acres. £65,000.
SAVILLS, London, Tel.: 01-499 8644.
OREWATT, WATSON & BARTON, Newbury, Tel.: (0635) 4800.

SOUTH DORSET COAST

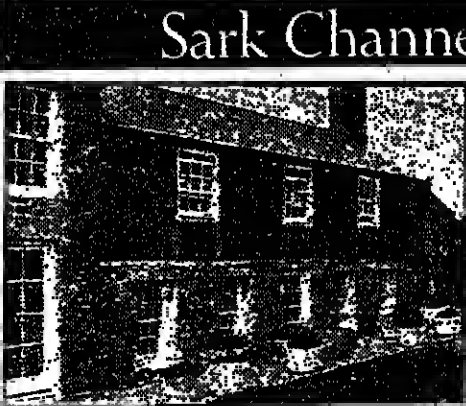
Lulworth Coast 3 miles, Dorchester 9 miles.
An attractive village property originally two houses facing south with pleasant walled gardens, 4 reception rooms, orangery, 5 bedrooms, dressing room, 4 bathrooms, 5 oil-fired central heating, garage, barns, 1 1/2 acres freehold. £55,000.
SAVILLS, Wimbome, Tel.: (020125) 2212.

CORNWALL—St. Mawes

Superbly situated with uninterrupted southern views across the bay to Penennis Castle. Excellent accommodation for family or guests, 3 reception rooms, 7 bedrooms, bathroom, flat, garden with swimming pool. £24,000.
SAVILLS, London, Tel.: 01-499 8644.
STRATTON & HOLBOROW, Truro, Tel.: (0872) 4646.

EAST CORNWALL—Callington

Tavistock 9 miles, Plymouth 16 miles, Paddington 4 hours.
Distinguished and beautifully modernised house with outstanding views to Bodmin Moor, 3 reception rooms, modern kitchen/breakfast room, 5 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, oil-fired central heating, easily maintained garden, double garage, paddock. About 5 acres.
FOX & SONS, 8 Whimpey Street, St. Andrews Cross, Plymouth, Tel.: (0752) 20556/9.
SAVILLS, London Office, Tel.: 01-499 8644.



Sark Channel Islands

A rare opportunity to purchase one of the island's forty freeholds. No income tax, capital gains tax or VAT and no motor cars.
Regular boat service from Guernsey. Direct twice-daily flights Guernsey/Heathrow and Gatwick, also to Southampton, Birmingham and Bournemouth.
This unique property, of considerable historic interest, extended and improved over the years is now one of the island's most charming houses, situated on an elevated site with panoramic views over the sea and adjoining islands.
Hall, 2 cloakrooms, magnificent upper floor drawing room, small study, well fitted kitchen, passenger lift. Suite of bedroom, study and bathroom, 5 further bedrooms and 3 further bathrooms. Large nursery/studio. Oil-fired central heating. Barn, farm-bulldozer. Garden and farmland, 16 acres.
SAVILLS, London, Tel.: 01-499 8644.
MARTEL MAJORS LE PELLEY & MOY, St. Peter Port, Guernsey, Tel.: (0481) 21203.

RIVER TAY—DALGUISE BEAT

Rare chance to purchase a beat on one of the top and most exceptional Scottish rivers.
1 mile of both banks on the River Tay
110 fish every day.
SAVILLS, London Office, Tel.: 01-499 8644.
J. T. SUTHERLAND & CO., Bank of Scotland Buildings, Brechin, Angus, Tel. Brechin 2187.

PERTSHIRE—Blairgowrie

Dundee 18 miles, Perth 16 miles, Aberdeen 80 miles.
Fine family house with frontage to the River Erith, set in over 6 1/2 acres of its own grounds. 3 reception rooms, 5 bedrooms, billiards room, terraced gardens down to river, greenhouses and outbuildings. Exceptional policy woodland. Trout and Salmon fishings by arrangement.
J. T. SUTHERLAND & CO., Brechin, Angus, Tel.: (03562) 2187.

PERTSHIRE—Glenisla

Dundee 24 miles, Perth 30 miles.
Fine house beautifully situated in one of Scotland's finest Glens set in its own ground of 2 1/2 acres. 3 reception rooms, 5 bedrooms, study, 3 bathrooms, oil-fired central heating, large kitchen, well laid out grounds with timber chateau comprising lounge, bar area, bedroom, bathroom and sauna.
J. T. SUTHERLAND & CO., Brechin, Angus, Tel.: (03562) 2187.

HEREFORD & WORCESTER

Ombersley 2 miles, M5 8 miles, Droitwich 8 miles, Worcester 8 miles.
Delightful part Georgian house and small cottage set in unspoilt country with superb views within a conservation area, yet 15 minutes' drive from M5 and within easy reach of many industrial centres. 3 reception rooms, 8 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, attics, oil-fired central heating, 2 bedroomed cottage for modernisation. Double garage, brick outbuildings including old stables and cider house, garden just over 2 acres. £57,500. Additional 10 acres available.
SAVILLS, London, Tel.: 01-499 8644.

OXFORDSHIRE—Toot Baldon

Oxford 6 miles, London 55 miles.
Spacious stone family house standing in its own grounds with an open outlook. 3 reception rooms, playroom, domestic offices, 7 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, attic, full oil-fired central heating, garaging and stabling, gardens and paddocks. About 5 acres. Offers around £53,000.
SAVILLS, Banbury, Tel.: (0295) 3535.

OXFORDSHIRE—Deddington

Banbury 6 miles, Oxford 17 miles.
Attractive family house delightfully set in outstanding south-facing garden, 3 reception rooms, breakfast room/kitchen, 4 main and 3 secondary bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, oil fired central heating, garaging and gardens. About 1 1/2 acres. Offers around £25,000.
SAVILLS, Banbury, Tel.: (0295) 3535.

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE

North Chilterns

Tring station 5 miles—Euston 38 minutes, London 40 miles, Chesham 5 miles—Metropolitan line to Baker Street.
Charming old conversion of period farm buildings forming a compact house built round a courtyard and with a beautiful garden. 2 reception rooms, 4 bedrooms, dressing room, 2 bathrooms, oil fired central heating, extensive garaging and outbuildings. Delightful garden and 3 paddocks. About 13 acres.
SAVILLS, London, Tel.: 01-499 8644.

BERKSHIRE—Winkfield

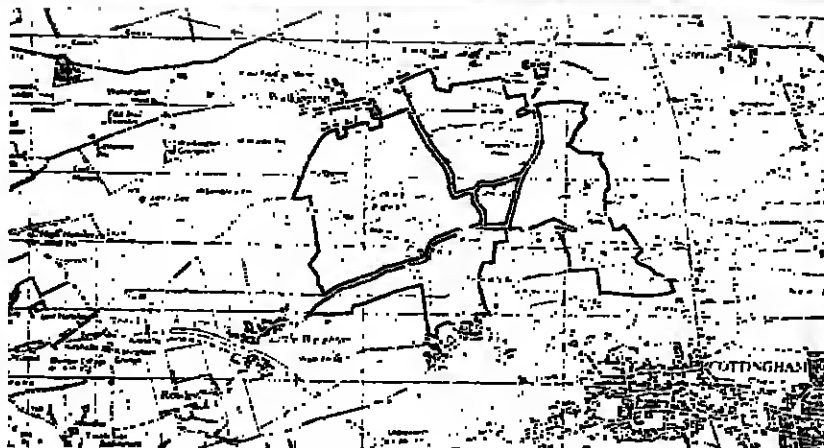
Windsor and M4 5 miles, Ascot 4 miles.
Delightful small period house listed architecturally and situated in this very popular area close to Windsor Forest where houses of medium size are scarce. 3 reception rooms, 4 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, oil-fired central heating. Garden studio, garaging for 3, outbuildings, garden and grounds. About 2 1/2 acres.
SAVILLS, London, Tel.: 01-499 8644.



SOUTH EAST LINCOLNSHIRE

Boston 2 miles, Spalding 15 miles, Grimsby 30 miles.
Classic Georgian house circa 1768 with a William and Mary wing of quite outstanding architectural merit, undoubtedly one of the finest small period houses in the county, standing in a partly moated and timbered parkland setting. Hall, drawing room, library, dining room, modern kitchen, 6 bedrooms, dressing room, 3 bathrooms, gas fired central heating, outbuildings, easily maintained park-like grounds. About 9 acres.
SAVILLS, London Office, Tel.: 01-499 8644 and 2a Balgale, Lincoln, Tel.: (0532) 31411.

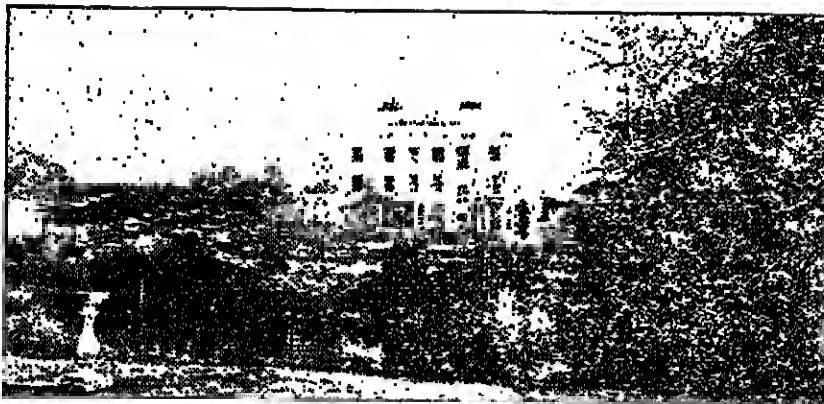
The Risby Estate N. Humberside



2,888 Acres

An outstanding agricultural investment on some of the finest arable land on the edge of Yorkshire wolds together with woodlands and cottage properties. 9 let farms, 3 small holdings, 5 cottages, shooting rights, 2,670 acres let and producing £23,445.
218 acres woodland and other land in hand.
SAVILLS, London, Tel.: 01-499 8644 and Lincoln, Tel.: (0532) 31411.
WELLS CUNDALL, Beverley, Tel.: (0482) 882881 and at Hull, Malton, and other offices.

Houses Near London



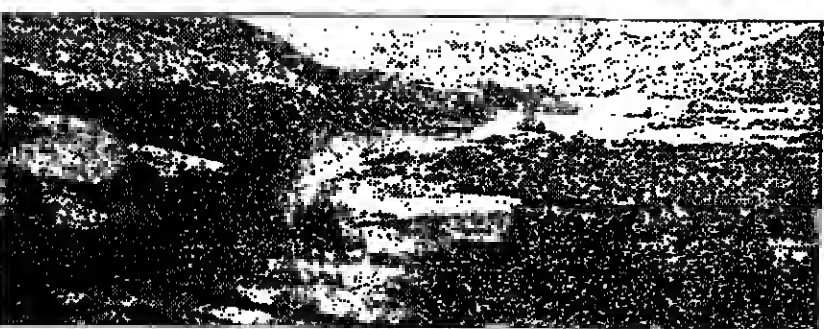
DULWICH

6 miles Central London
Fine Georgian house dating about 1790; premier position in College Road, standing in nearly 2 1/2 acres with rural outlook over playing fields and timbered surroundings. 4 reception rooms, 8 bedrooms and dressing rooms, 3 bedrooms, billiards/playroom. Part central heating. Garage block with flat over of 5 rooms. Kitchen and bathroom. Country house style gardens and grounds with specimen trees and shrubs. Small lake. Kitchen garden. Just under 2 1/2 acres. Leasehold 78 years (enfranchisable) for sale. £90,000.
SAVILLS, London Office, Tel.: 01-499 8644.
KNIGHT FRANK & RUTLEY, London Office, Tel.: 01-623 8171.

MOOR PARK

Marylebone 20 minutes
4 minutes' walk station, close to Northwood and Harrow
Very attractive modern house in prestige position. 3 reception rooms, breakfast room/nursery, 5 bedrooms, dressing room, 2 bathrooms, attic playroom, gas central heating throughout. Double garage, delightful secluded garden. £52,500.
SAVILLS, London Office, Tel.: 01-499 8644.
PETER ROBSON & COMPANY, Northwood (65) 24398.

Scotland



SUTHERLAND

Inverness 87 miles, Golspie 9 miles
Attractive modernised lodge and two cottages with an easily managed sporting estate and productive salmon river. Lodge, 3 reception rooms, 7 bedrooms, 2 dressing rooms, 3 bathrooms. Two cottages. Grouse walking up. Four stocked Lochs. 2 1/2 miles Salmon fishing.
SAVILLS, London Office, Tel.: 01-499 8644.
BINGHAM HUGHES & MACPHERSON, 6 & 23 Queensgate, Inverness, Tel.: Inverness (0483) 35544.



WEST SUSSEX

5 miles east of Chichester, Barnham station 1 1/2 miles, Victoria 80 minutes.
Exceptional 16th/17th century house with classical Queen Anne facade and many other features of the period, extensively restored and modernised and with new electrical and plumbing system. 3 line reception rooms, breakfast room, fully fitted kitchen, 5 principal bedrooms, dressing room and 3 bathrooms; 6 secondary bedrooms and 4th bathroom. Oil-fired central heating. Heated swimming pool, 3 1/2 acres. Offers over £50,000. Two flats and two houses additionally available if required.
SAVILLS, London, Tel.: 01-499 8644.
WHITEHEADS, Chichester, Tel.: (0243) 65181.

SURREY—WINDLESHAM

London 25 miles, M3 20 minutes.
Outstanding superbly equipped period house in a quiet situation away from main road, 3 reception rooms, playroom, 7 bedrooms, 5 bathrooms (including 2 suites), central heating, garaging for 3, with garden 1 1/2, heated swimming pool, fine gardens with banks of rhododendrons. £79,000.
SAVILLS, London Office, Tel.: 01-499 8644.

ESSEX

Halstead 8 miles, Braintree 10 miles.
Delightful listed period house dating from 15th century in excellent decorative order and in a secluded rural position. Reception hall, 3 reception rooms, cloakroom, 6 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, large studio, garaging for 3 cars, outbuildings, stable cottages, fine gardens and grounds and let held. About 7 acres. £57,000.
SAVILLS, London Office, Tel.: 01-499 8644.
and 5 High Street, Halstead, Tel.: (07874) 5111.

CAMBRIDGESHIRE

Royston 4 miles, King's Cross 65 minutes, Cambridge 10 miles.
Delightful 19th century mill in quiet rural position superbly converted to light spacious accommodation retaining many of its original characteristics and divided into 2 houses.
Lot 1: 2-3 reception rooms including 4 1/2 drawing room, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 1 1/2 acres.
Lot 2: Reception room, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 1 acre £29,000.
A further 1 acre is available to either party if required.
SAVILLS, London, Tel.: 01-499 8644.
DOUGLAS C. JANUARY, Royston, Tel.: (0763) 42921.

WEST SUFFOLK

Chevington 1 mile Bury St. Edmunds 7 miles, Newmarket 11 miles.
Charming house of period origin with beautiful, easily maintained gardens surrounded by agricultural land and fine views over the Ickworth Estate. 4 reception rooms, excellent breakfast/kitchen, 4 bedrooms, dressing room, 2 bathrooms, garage, garden. 1 1/2 acres. £35,000.
SAVILLS, London, Tel.: 01-499 8644.
H. C. WOLTON & SONS, Bury St. Edmunds, Tel.: (0384) 61336.

Switzerland



GENTHOD—GENEVA

Superb 18th century style country house in secluded position in small village close to Geneva, the airport and United Nations centre, with views overlooking the lake to the distant Alps and Mont Blanc.
Fine reception hall, 3 reception rooms en suite, 5 principal bedrooms with 3 bathrooms, en suite, 4 secondary bedrooms with 4th bathroom, oil-fired central heating, double garage, gardens and terrace.
About 3 acres. For sale freehold subject to Swiss regulations on property purchase.
SAVILLS, London Office, Tel.: 01-499 8644.

DUMFRIESSHIRE

Dumfries 2 miles, Carlisle 37 miles

Charming stone built period house overlooking open farmland with hills beyond. 3 reception rooms, nursery, modern kitchen, 8 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, oil-fired central heating. Traditional stabling with garaging, garden and paddocks.
About 13 acres.
SAVILLS, London, Tel.: 01-499 8644.
J. T. SUTHERLAND & CO., Brechin, Angus, Tel.: (03562) 2187.

CAITHNESS—Whalgie Bay

Wick 8 miles

Skilfully converted house and old Herring Curing Yard on a spectacular site above Whalgie Bay, south of Wick. 3 reception rooms 4 double bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, outbuildings. For sale due to change of plan, vacant possession with immediate entry can be given.
Offers in excess of £15,000
J. T. SUTHERLAND & CO., Brechin, Angus, Tel.: (03562) 2187.

KINCARDINESHIRE (616 Acres)

Laurencekirk 4 miles, Montrose 10 miles, Aberdeen 30 miles, Dundee 40 miles.

TULLO FARM

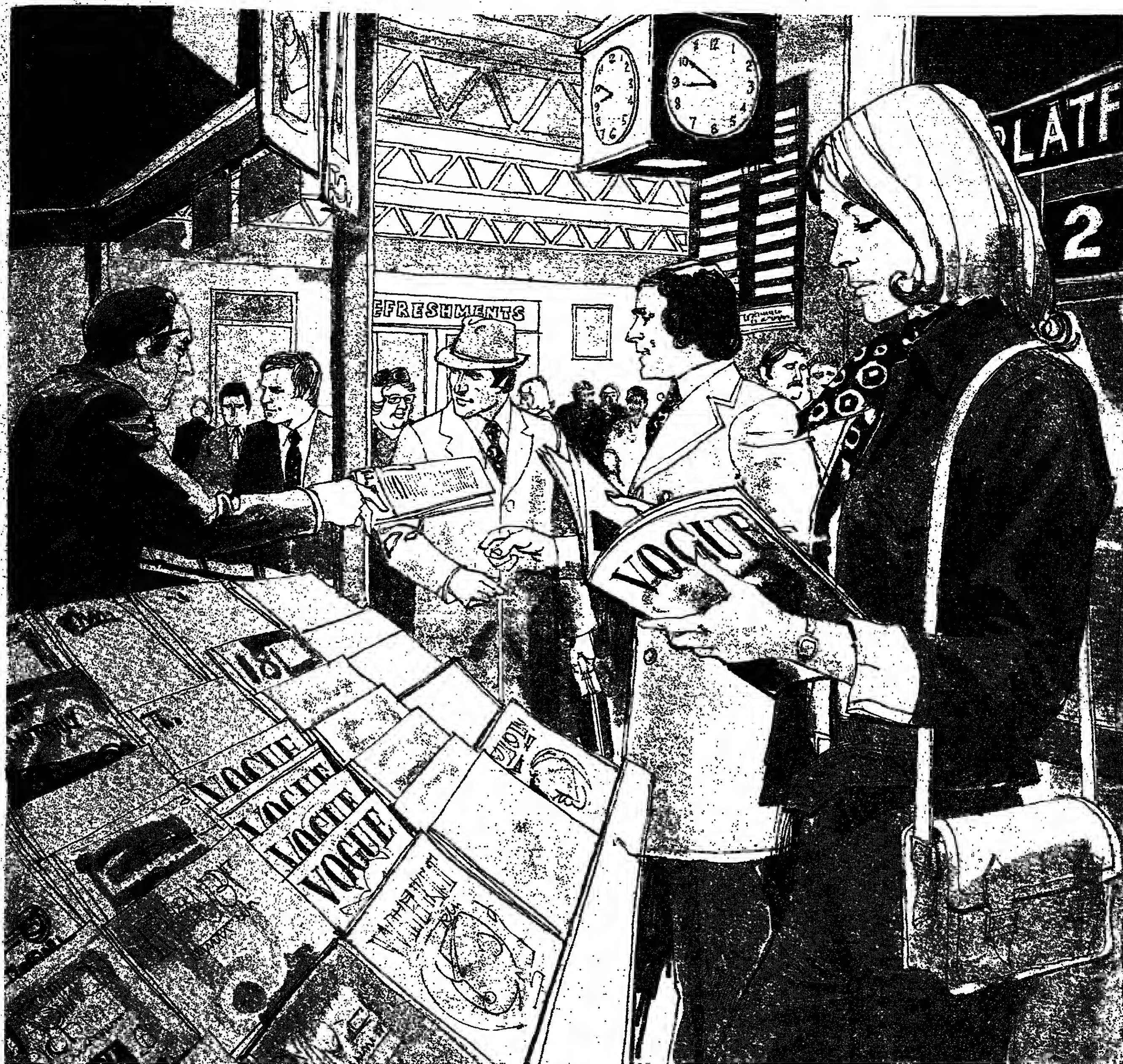
For sale by private treaty as a whole or in two lots.
Lot 1: Farmhouse, commodious modern farm buildings, 2 cottages. 332 acres arable—450.1 acres in all.
Lot 2: Small modern farmhouse, traditional stabling, 120 acres arable—156 acres in all.
SAVILLS, London, Tel.: 01-499 8644.
J. T. SUTHERLAND & CO., Brechin, Angus, Tel.: (03562) 2187.

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TELEPHONE: 01-499 8644

20 Grosvenor Hill, London W1X 0HQ
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Why are Vickers so much in Vogue?

Open some of today's most famous magazines and you'll see why we're popular with people who want to make a colourful impression on their readers.

Much of today's best colour printing, like that in Vogue, is carried out with lithographic printing plates from Howson-Algraphy.

Howson-Algraphy, who are one of the main operating groups within Vickers, have developed advanced manufacturing techniques to enable them to offer the printer the improved colour reproduction which so often is taken for granted.

These are developments which have won markets in over 90 countries and two Queens Awards for Exports in three years.

But Vickers achievements cover a far wider spectrum than this.

From nuclear plant to microscopes, from sea-bed engineering to metal decorating presses, and from duplicators to bottling machinery.

Advanced technology. Growing exports. The ability to adapt engineering skills to expanding markets. And the power to stand on our own feet financially.

These are the qualities which are vital to British industry today.

And it is through our strength in all these areas that the Vickers tradition remains so much in vogue.



Vickers

Expansion from strength

Bernard Levin

Vintage Montgomery

Now that the obituaries have all been written and read, and we are on the eve of his funeral, I think I may presume to add my own memories of Montgomery: those of my readers who are surprised to find that I have any such memories may be assured that they are not half so surprised as I am.

It began a good many years ago, when I was conducting a series of television interviews, in which I had talked about his life and work to such people as Robert Bolt, Orson Welles, Enoch Powell, Michael Tippett (who claims—rightly, I am sure—to be the only man in the world with a refrigerator named "Bernard Levin"), thus entitled because he bought it with the money Rediffusion paid him), Joost de Blank, Rebecca West, John Huston and Alexander Keresky. (This was one I had set my heart on, for the reminiscences of the man who overthrew the Tsars, and was himself overthrown by Lenin, could hardly be anything but fascinating, and so they may have been, though since not six words of what he said were in a language that even roughly corresponded to English, I was hardly in a position to judge. It was never screened.)

Anyway, although Monty had appeared quite frequently on television at that time, he was always invited to address his mind to such matters as homosexual law reform or South African race relations—subjects on which, to put it as kindly as possible, his views were of no great significance or originality. What I suggested to my programme's producers was that I should ask him about war, generalship and allied matters, on which, after all, he might be presumed to know what he was talking about.

They rang him up (he always answered the telephone himself) and put the suggestion to him. "I'll have to see this chap Levin first," he barked; "tell him to come down here and have tea with me."

He came out to greet me. Before we were inside the house he had explained that he had insisted on our meeting "to see if we got on." "You might not like me," he said cheerfully, adding (and it really was said as an afterthought) "or I might not like you." But we liked each other from the start, and it was clear that we were going to have a good programme.

He was completely without pretentiousness or self-consciousness. In the programme, I asked him—after discussing his well-

founded reputation for never squandering a single life—to tell me how he felt about the fact that, when all the preparations for the battle had been made, and all the care and foresight expended, he nevertheless knew that within a few hours many men, perhaps many thousands, would be dead. "D'you know," he said, "I've never really thought about it like that," and then said there, while the very cameras bled their breath, he thought about it on-screen, and then answered with simplicity that the important thing was to ensure that the troops knew that if they were killed their bodies would be "reverently collected and reverently buried."

After that, I used to go down to see him at his home in Hampshire, and grew very fond of him indeed; I don't really know why he liked me, though I suspect it was partly because I teased him, and partly because he could ask me about things of which he knew nothing and concerning which he would not pretend to knowledge he did not have—books, for instance, and much of politics, and people in the news whose names meant nothing to him; but I know why I liked him; it was because, so far from being the narrowly Puritan egoist of popular legend, I found him warm, touching, innocent and vulnerable, full of a crisp, positively sly, humour, and quite extraordinarily thoughtful. (Once, I was visiting him while he was working on his *History of Warfare*, with two young researchers. One of them, he felt, looked tired and jaded. "I know what you need," he suddenly said to the young man: "invite your girlfriend down here for the weekend.")

He used to go to Bourne-mouth for a fortnight every year, in the early spring, where he found himself in the company of Basil Liddell Hart, whom I had known for many years and who showed me great friendship and kindness. I would visit them both there, and at lunch saw it es my duty to posterity to provoke them into combat over military history and theory. Their disagreements had once been real, and touched by some feeling, but by then it was all battles long ago, and I would only have to mention Eisenhower or Churchill to have them spluttering at one another in mock-rage. Basil was very touched when, in my television programme with Montgomery, I led the Field Marshal into acknowledging his military debt to the

Captain—something he had never done before.

Once, in front of the fire at Islington, I asked Montgomery what was the biggest row he had ever had with Churchill, and after his ritual protest (we were both used to it by then) to the effect that he had never had any rows with anybody, he told me. It seems that Churchill had been looking through some lists of equipment landed on the beaches almost immediately after D-Day, and found among the stores "Two dentists' chairs". Next time he saw Montgomery, he demanded to know why, at such a perilous moment, precious space had been found for such luxuries. "I told him," snipped Monty: "I told him, I said 'Prime Minister, a soldier with toothache's no use to me—he can't fight. Good morning.'"

He had that old man's habit of telescoping the generations below him, so that to him I was the same age as the village children. But it brought out yet more of his solicitude: he would pause to ask: "You know who I mean by Wavell?" or even "by Atlee?" And the solicitude went into all sorts of odd corners belying again the picture of a vain and selfish man; whenever we ate together he would insist, though he was of course notoriously testy, that I was supplied with wine of my choice, and would anxiously inquire whether it was really to my taste. (One of my happiest achievements, I may say, was persuading him to drink an entire glass of champagne on his birthday, to the stupefaction of the sommelier at Claridge's.)

He reminisced endlessly, and with endless fascination for me. And constantly he would return to the questions through which he wanted to fill in the gaps in his own mind: "E. M. Forster, now," he would say: "is he a good writer? What sort of things did he write?" Always he was scrupulously courteous, exhorting me to the garden gate, making unnecessary sure I had complete instructions for the journey. I can see him now, his eyes piercing and kind at once; I can feel his hand on my arm as we negotiated steps; I can hear his voice, clipped and warm. Of his generalship I am not qualified to form an opinion; as a man I felt for him admiration and a great affection. I am glad I knew him; he added a glowing strand to my life, and anyone attacking him in my presence is in for an unpleasant surprise. May the earth lie lightly on a soldier's bones.

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In today's defence debate, Mr Mason will be able to call the Commons that the number of civilians working for the Ministry of Defence will be cut this year from 291,000 to 287,000, and that a further 10,000, as yet unspecified, cuts are planned for the next few years. Details of these further cuts are now being worked out by a Management Review Team (MRT) under an Assistant Secretary, Mr K. C. Macdonald.

The team is studying 10 separate categories of organization and will be producing reports on them between now and September. It has started by examining the scale of defence administration to see what economies can be made in fields like the frequency of stock control, how often bills are paid, whether or not Servicemen should receive their pay weekly, monthly, or even yearly, and so on.

This work is thus fairly similar to the attempts in each of the past six "major" defence reviews since 1964 to reduce the civilian "tail" in the ministry in line with the much more damaging cuts made in the Service "teeth". In the first group of defence cuts after 1964, the ministry was able to cut the civilian "tail" almost proportionately to the military cuts, because reductions in overseas garrisons enabled large numbers of overseas non-military personnel to be declared redundant. However, the armed forces are now concentrated in Britain, and any further corresponding cut in their civilian support can only hit into the structure of Civil Service management at the very core.

That is why by far the most important sector of the MRT's work concerns the very highest organization of the ministry. Its terms of reference enjoin it to study the structure of the Chiefs of Staff Committee, and indeed to question the necessity of even retaining a three-Service structure at all, with the possibility of a recommendation that it should be reduced to two services, with the RAF as the casualty.

The reason why it is so

important is because, as the accompanying chart will explain, the progressive attempts to unify and integrate the central organization and management of defence have, so far, not been pushed through to the point where the advantage of such a reform can be gained. They have been resisted in the name of the preservation of separate Service identity. This is naturally important at the operational end, but has never shown any particular need for separate identities on the staff side.

The separate Service ministries were all brought together in one building in 1964. But that reorganization created not a single entity but a four-part ministry—the three Services with a central defence organization perched rather precariously and often impotently on top of

them. With each successive defence review it has been clear that if the three-Service nature of defence organization is to be perpetuated up to the very top of the ministry, fundamental decisions of defence strategy in a period of declining budgets are bound to represent the lowest common or acceptable denominator between the Chiefs of Staff of each Service.

The only way now in which we are likely to get more "bang for a buck" is by reducing the amount of duplication at the centre. Any study of the higher organization at the defence ministry shows how much overlapping is caused by the determination to maintain the separate Chiefs of Staff (Army, Navy, Air Force) and their separate secretaries.

As long as each Service has a separate Chief of Staff, he has

to be supported by a full secretariat of civil servants representing just his service, ready to do battle round the table with his fellow Service Chiefs and/or the Chief of Defence Staff, who together sit on the Chiefs of Staff Committee.

The table shows how much overlap this causes up to the very highest reaches of defence management. It means that, in support of each Service Chief of Staff, there has to be a Deputy Secretary in charge of what amounts to a fully blown department, scarcely less weighty than it was when there were separate Service ministries; and in spite of the fact that there is now supposed to be a central defence staff not just coordinating the work of three Services, which would be a modest role indeed, but eventually initiating policy and administration, most of which now cannot and should not be conducted on a single Service basis.

In the chart, for instance (known affectionately in the ministry as the "wiring diagram") one can see how all the subordinate departments in the single Services (shown in heavy type) have also to be represented in the Central Defence Staff. This emphasizes the fact that either the Defence Staff is still limited to coordination, and is therefore much too weak to impose the sort of radical structural changes required by our declining defence budget against the entrenched opposition of the Services, or else that the continued existence of the Service secretariats is an increasing cause of inefficiency, and that a need to preserve a career structure for a large number of civil servants.

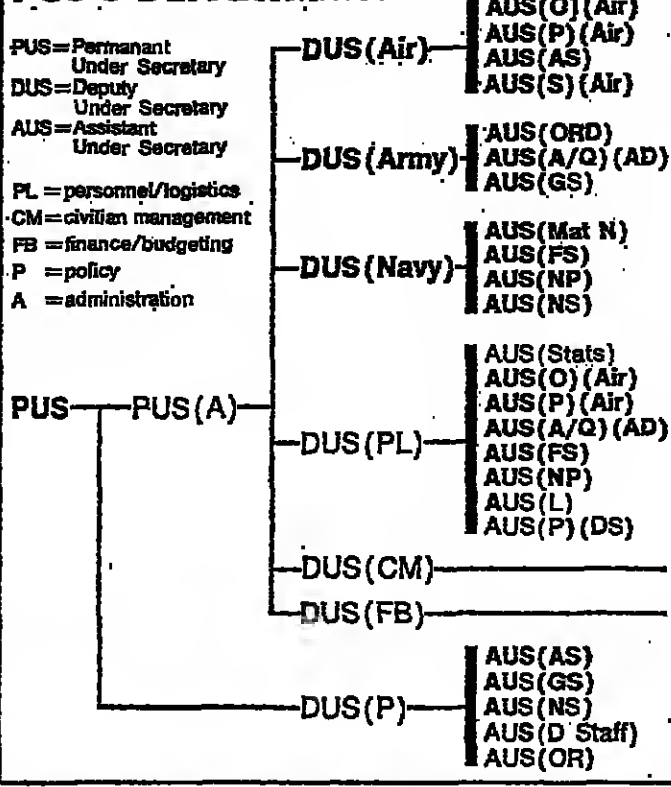
By coincidence the Ministry of Defence is now presented with a tremendous opportunity to overcome these last two sources of opposition to radical change within its own Civil Service, and literally to "rewire" itself. Owing to an historical anomaly in its recruitment—caused by birth badges after the First World War and the manpower expansion with-

the last concerted exercise to achieve something of this kind—10 years ago—grown-out of a report by Mr William Carrington, now Permanent Under Secretary for Administration. His report was badly received by the Service departments, who managed to limit the damage to the abolition of separate Service ministries and their permanent secretaries, and the introduction of some coordinating machinery in administration. But the Chiefs of Staff remained in all their glory as members of a Chiefs of Staff Committee.

As long as the separate staff hierarchies go to the very top, it will remain impossible to clip their civilian counterparts to a very junior level. Has Mr Mason (or whoever succeeds him in the new Government) got the determination to abolish the Service Chiefs of Staff, and to replace them with a governing body composed of senior officers in functional (as opposed to tribal) appointments? Has Sir Frank Cooper, the new Permanent Under Secretary? Has Sir Andrew Humphrey, the first man to hold the post of Chief of Defence Staff? The report would be essential for any Secretary of State dedicated in this cause. Since they both have an RAF background they might paradoxically be just the men for the job.

Charles Douglas-Home

PUS'S DEPARTMENT



Why Thailand will go 'absolutely democratic'

Thailand's Prime Minister, Kukrit Pramoj, hopes that the results of a general election on April 4 will allow him to form a stronger government than the 22-party coalition which was dissolved in January. Although there are 269 seats in the Thai National Assembly, there are more than 40 political parties and in the last government Mr Pramoj's Social Action Party controlled only 18 seats. Here Mr Pramoj talks to John Coast.

Mr Kukrit Pramoj is not afraid that Thailand will be the next domino to fall in the wake of the communist victories in Vietnam. "Mark you, I always believed in a limited domino theory. How could Laos or Cambodia, former companions of French Indo-China, be expected to stand on their own?" he said.

John Coast: "You're not afraid of direct attack from Hanoi?"

"I don't believe the Vietnamese want any more full-scale war. However, we are going to change. In the face of communist neighbours and reactionaries at home, Thailand is going to go absolutely democratic."

"And this won't give the organized communists their opening here?"

"Thailand can't stop the Russians trying to gain influence here. In the past, Britain, France and America all had 'influence' and we managed

to survive. If Russia tries to fill the American vacuum, we can only try to encourage a spirit of independence in our neighbours. Cambodia, for example, doesn't want to be a super-power puppet. What she needs right now is salt-to-salt beef fish, her basic protein food. So I've opened up a border post and we are working out an exchange whereby Thailand provides that salt. On my trip to Peking I told them we wanted to renew normal relations with Cambodia, and that was the delighted to see Prince Sihanouk back there as head of state."

"But what about Laos and the North-East?"

"Problems exist. Their Prime Minister is very close to Hanoi. But their government wants friendly relations with us and I agree this must be so. The Laos are a gentle people and our blood brothers. I plan to open the border again soon to let vital supplies through to Vietnamese."

"Which leaves Hanoi. Are you making any progress there?"

"A delegation from Hanoi came and stayed in Bangkok for a week. It was a friendly and very polished visit. I agreed to further talks in Hanoi itself. The basic problem remains the planes and other military equipment flown out of South Vietnam to Thailand after the American debacle. Hanoi finds this very important. I'm afraid the truth is that we had almost no control over anything flown out of Vietnam at that time. Our relations with America remain very, very good. It was the Chinese, in fact, who

said to me: 'When you drive the wolves out of your front door, make sure you don't let tigers come in the back way.'"

"Meaning the Russians?"

"Ah, they didn't specify. But we will continue to buy arms from the United States and use their advisers. But from now on, we must be purely technical civilians."

"How is your own large Chinese community behaving? With whom do they identify now?"

"First, the Thai-Chinese know that our government intends to continue good relations with China. Chou En-lai was a dear — a real friend. He bought 200,000 tons of rice when the price of our own crops was falling and he bailed out farmers out. There's recently been a Chinese trade delegation in Bangkok. They aren't like the Russians, you know. They laugh a lot. Perhaps at different things—but I saw nothing gloomy in China. Obviously, there must be some dedicated Communists among our Chinese community—it would be very odd if there were not. But I'm convinced the huge majority of Chinese are loyal to Thailand—after all, they have it both ways: they are proud of their Chinese origin, and flourish in our free enterprise society."

"Could we now turn to your democratic policy? How are you getting democracy across to the grass roots?"

"In a great variety of ways which we widely publicize. For instance, those earning less than 1,000 baht (£25) a month get free bus rides. Those earning under 2,000 a month get stamps to subsidize their buy-

ing of rice. Schooling, and medical services, are free, as is the building of low rent apartments. This is mostly to benefit urban dwellers."

"But our most ambitious scheme is for the rice-growing farmer majority. We decided to pump money into the countryside through the sub-district councils. We simply told the people it was their money, and they had to decide how to spend it. By the end of 1975 we had distributed about 2,500 million baht."

"But wasn't this incredibly risky? How could the money be responsibly channelled? Through village headmen?"

"I told you we were going absolutely democratic. No, it's going to your grass roots—the members of the village councils themselves will decide how to spend it. In 1975 each village should have received about 400,000 baht, or £12,000. We expect the money to be used to improve irrigation canals, repair or build bridges, dams, roads, make school extensions, provide poles for electricity and so on."

"You're not afraid of terrible waste?"

"We are naturally putting what protective measures we can into our distribution. But country people will build bridges in the middle of paddy fields. It's only, we think, by educating people practically in this way that we can begin to make democracy real to them. In the current year we have increased the sum for distribution to 3,500 million baht."

"So you are confident your system is beginning to work?"

"Yes. Because I was attacked by certain employers as there was no cheap labour available this year after the harvest. And that was because these funds were employing men who would normally be out of work when the rice had been harvested, and they didn't need to flood into Bangkok as expatriate labour."

"Lastly, may we touch briefly on a topic that has long plagued Thailand. You yourself have long been a scourge of the corrupt. Yet I hear your brother Sen's party are blaming you for keeping corrupt people near you in order to hold your coalition together. Are you satisfied that you have corruption under control?"

"Of course not. After less than a year in power? But there is a committee preparing a special report for me on this subject, which should be ready soon. If I am returned in power with a weak majority on April 4, I shall take very strong action: the moment I have clear cases to proceed with, I'm not going to take emotional and precipitate action that will rebound on me."

"No, you must understand that my government labours with and overcomes problems. Just imagine that as a result of the Vietnam war, Thailand now has 40,000 heroin addicts to deal with. That on its own is a horrifying problem. Give us a little goodwill and another year or two, than come back and judge us by our results."

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MAXIMISE YOUR MEDIA OPPORTUNITIES

How to improve your TV campaign

Next time someone suggests you put all your advertising on TV, ask if he's read this booklet.

The booklet is published by the Press Communications Research Committee. Its message is clear.

If you put all your eggs in the TV basket you may not influence those people who don't watch much TV.

Light ITV viewers, as they're called. They're the people who watch around seven hours or less per week. An hour per day perhaps.

They're a numerous breed; 33.8%* of the adult population at the last count. Now it so happens Radio Times reaches 27% of those light viewers. And cost effectively.

If you'd like to see a copy of the booklet please phone 01-580 5577, Extension 3236.

BBC Publications, 35 Marylebone High Street, London W1M 4AA.

Radio Times

The 9 day weekly.

The Post Office is anxious to know what you do with stamps once you have bought them. Exciting rival possibilities, you might think the answer fairly obvious, but the Post Office does not agree. What worries their officials is that there are millions of secret hoarders hanging on to stamps worth some £20m at any one time.

Anxious to uncover the extent of such hidden treasure, the Market Planning Division at Postal Headquarters sent 12,000 questionnaires (first class mail) to Monday to people and firms chosen at random. The covering letter explained vaguely that the information was needed for the "annual accounts".

The questions are, thorough the point of absurdity. The instructions stress that stamps in a collector should not be listed, nor national insurance and savings stamps. More bafflingly, the head of the house is urged to answer only on behalf of "members of the household with the same surname as yourself" (their bold type). And to press some the point: "The value of stamps held by people in the household with other surnames is not required."

Victims of this elaborate survey are required to list separately stamps held by 1. Yourself; 2. Your wife (sexism); 3. Others over 18; 4. Others under 18. Determined not to let any stamp slip under their net, the respondents add a fifth category: "There may be other postage stamps used by members of your household, but which are not held by individuals. . . Please state the total value of any other stamps held in the household." That takes care of stamphoarding cooperatively.

The survey, which has been carried out in three previous

The Times Diary

Sniffing out the stamp hoarders

years, will cost £3,500, say the Post Office. Why, I asked, could they not get the figure by subtracting the value of stamps on letters posted from the value of stamps sold.

"I know that sounds nice and simple," said a spokesman. "But it's not as simple as that." It never is.

In Hampstead's Vale of Health, Emanuel Herwaldt has finished his gravel road across the foot of the supposedly inviolate heath. His outraged neighbours are now wondering whether this will affect a planning application the Herwaldts have made to build five houses on their garden. Permission was refused, partly because of lack of access and the Herwaldts' appeal is pending.

Vote-getters

What do James G. Blaine, Alfred E. Smith and Barry Goldwater have in common? In spite of plunging the depths of gimmickry, each came second in an American presidential election. The proof is to be found in a small exhibition which opened at the United States Embassy in Grosvenor Square yesterday.

memorabilia from George Washington to Gerald Ford, taken from the collection of the University of Hartford, Connecticut. It includes Blaine's redesigning of the American flag as a campaign symbol which failed to stop Grover Cleveland, Smith's toby jugs of his own face which failed to keep Herbert Hoover out, and bars of Goldwater Soap ("I've got a fear of germs") which helped Lyndon Johnson to his only full term. James Ayres, who organized the exhibition, told my reporter that although torchlight processions and whistle-stop tours on the backs of trains had given way to jets and campaigning by television, the printed material of election campaigns had changed little. The posters for honest, able and fearless Abe Lincoln, who favoured peace, prosperity and progress, are little different from those for honest, able and fearless Richard Nixon, who favoured the same things.

Book sail

A group of pacifists are planning to sail a battered weekend fishing ketch loaded to the gunwales with books to the Skeleton coast of Namibia (South West Africa).

The organizers do not think that their support, or that of Sean McBride, the UN Commissioner for Namibia, precludes the possibility that the South Africans, who rule Namibia, will sink them before they arrive or sabotage the boat before it leaves. The books they intend to take with them are mostly banned by the South African Government.

"Money is coming in gradually," said Roger Moody, who has organized pacifist missions to Cambodia and Bangladesh. "But we are a bit disappointed that we have not had more



applications to be crew members. Sailing experience would be useful, but it is even more essential that the people all have experience of taking collective decisions in non-violent action. They will have to give six weeks to the project before they sail, and be prepared for every sort of contingency when they leave."

Pretentious

With an accidental sense of timing, the English Tourist Board yesterday followed up the launching of this year's Michelin guide to British restaurants with the launching of their own campaign to promote the virtues of English

cooking. Guests were invited to the Mansion House to sample a banquet of Tubbys Isaac's jellied eels, hare soup, Lancashire hot-pot, Cumberland ham and Boodle's Orange Fool.

Christine Curley, editor of the Good Food Guide, was unkind about the rival Michelin. "If you look at the 30 restaurants that Michelin has given a rosette to this year, you find that almost all of them specialize in French or pseudo-French cooking. The trouble is the catering colleges, who on the whole refuse to teach English cooking. They are all brought up on Escottier, who is terribly out of date." He added that too many restaurants tried to be too pretentious, attempting foreign cooking that they did not really understand.

But Jane Curley, chef at one of the few traditional English restaurants of high repute in London (Simpson's in The Strand), was not impressed by the bewildering array of pigeon pie, saddle of lamb, rib of h. and Durbach. "I've proved upon the guests. Far too pretentious; they should have given us beef and kept the rest in a glass case for us to look at," he declared.

The hazards of translation in the European Parliament have given Michael Stewart, who heads Labour's delegation there, an undeserved reputation as an outdoorsman of unusual dexterity. He had spoken of his job as being like "a German canoe shooting rapids," but the German interpreter thought he had said "padding a canoe shooting rapids" and translated accordingly. Stewart, who is 69, was promptly wished good hunting by two German members.

PHS

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A MAN THE NATION WOULD TRUST

The second ballot confirmed the expectation that had been formed after the first. Mr Callaghan moved into the lead; Mr Michael Foot picked up the great majority of Mr Benn's votes but only a few from the other candidates, and Mr Healey remained a very distant third. Mr Jenkins received 18 votes fewer on the second ballot than Mr Jenkins had received on the first, and has therefore gained nothing by his decision to stay in.

Mr Michael Foot has decided to go on into the last round and that will put the Labour Party to another ballot. As Mr Callaghan is already ahead, and is likely to get a large majority of Mr Healey's votes, there is no substantial doubt that Mr Callaghan will win that ballot also. In any case Mr Foot cannot do the job. The nation has to be united to face a period of great strain and difficulty. Mr Foot cannot unite the nation.

We are now therefore looking forward in all human probability to Mr Callaghan as Prime Minister. His personality is well known to the public. He has held the highest offices, including the Treasury and the Foreign Office. He is thought of primarily as an experienced and practical politician. He is not a political intellectual, but he has often shown a better understanding of public feeling than mere intellectual colleagues. He has the character of a steady

man and that is a quality that the British have always warmed to.

In his long career many people at one time or another have had to work quite closely with Mr Callaghan. They include political colleagues, civil servants, advisers, trade unionists, economists, journalists and so on. As he has come nearer and nearer to Downing Street in recent days they have been discussing him among themselves. The verdicts are not all favourable, as they would not be. But they all regard him as basically trustworthy. Journalists will say that in 18 or 20 years of experience of him they have not known him deceive them. It is not that he always answers their enquiries, nor is he one of those politicians whose relations with journalists are more personal than professional. But his yes is yes, his nay is nay, and his no comment is no comment.

This is important because the situation of the country requires a Prime Minister whom people can deal with. In the 1970's it has often been apparent how little power a Prime Minister has on his own. In their different ways that was true of Mr Heath's Prime Ministership and of Mr Wilson's second term. Yet a Prime Minister is an essential pivot of the system. Unless other men can establish satisfactory relationships of trust with the Prime Minister the system does not work. He does not have to

be loved, though there is no harm if he is loved, he does have to be trusted.

The other essential virtue Mr Callaghan is rightly credited with is patriotism. His colleagues have seen him settle an argument by saying "well that might be good for the Labour Party, but it wouldn't be good for the country", or words to that effect. He has been in the Navy and represented the police, and he has his type of basic patriotism. It is a strong quality.

No one yet knows whom Mr Callaghan will appoint to succeed him as Foreign Secretary. Mr Roy Jenkins has an international reputation which makes him the obvious candidate. In that case the inner quadrilateral of power would be Mr Callaghan with his three chief colleagues, Mr Foot, Mr Jenkins and Mr Healey, to take them in the order of the first ballot. That would be a very strong team. It is a team whose personal relations would be good. It would cover all the essential relationships of government. Mr Foot and Mr Callaghan himself are on solid ground with the trade unions. Mr Jenkins has his international reputation and his strength with the progressive centre of British politics; Mr Healey, whatever next week may need to be said about his budget deficit, has won confidence for his grasp of economic affairs. Above all Mr Callaghan is a man the whole nation would accept as Prime Minister.

ANOTHER BAD CASE OF NEGLECT

The report on St Augustine's hospital in Kent is only the most recent of a succession of deeply disturbing accounts of conditions in British mental hospitals that have come to light since the Ely Hospital report of 1969. Each time there is a strong if short-lived reaction of public concern, and administrative action is taken to deal with what is usually rightly identified as a widespread tendency of which the ineptness and inquiries only reveal occasional extreme examples. Since the Ely report there has been a painful reassessment of the basis of mental disability care and a considerable increase in spending upon it. In addition an elaborate machinery has been created for public oversight of standards in the health service as a whole and mental hospitals in particular. Yet here we are again with an account of shameful treatment of some of the most helpless members of the community, brought to light only because of the persistence of individuals who showed that the authorities were too easily satisfied.

Conditions at St Augustine's were not as squalid as those recorded in some earlier instances, and the cruel or thoughtless actions of staff working under severe pressure were less extreme than what happened elsewhere. But it is particularly disturbing that such failures should continue after seven

years in which the attack on them has been among the first priorities of the health service—and that even now those with experience of mental hospitals acknowledge that many others are just as bad.

It is important not to be too censorious of the staff of the hospital as individuals. In the long-stay wards with which the report is concerned they had to cope with patients of the most trying and disheartening kind, sometimes difficult to control except by physical constraint. The wards were chronically under-manned, because the task is one that not many can face, and inconvenient and dreary because too little had been spent on them. The hospital, a large isolated community with 900 patients, tended to be inward-looking and apathetic about ways and means of improving the lot of its long-stay patients. It is a fundamental defect of health services in this and many other countries that disabilities where there is no gratifying prospect of a cure get less than their share of money and attention.

At St Augustine's this contrast was glaring. Only nine of the thirty-seven wards are for long-stay patients. In the others it is not disputed that treatment has been energetic and equipment and furnishings satisfactory. There is a warning in this. Public policy has long been to close the huge Victorian asylums and dis-

tribute treatment through local authority hostels and wings of general hospitals. The aim is right, for much of the demoralization of staff in long-stay wards is connected with the fact that even if they do succeed in rehabilitating a patient there is often nowhere he can go to take a step part of the way back to ordinary life. But St Augustine's shows that archaic backwaters can exist even under the same roof as enterprising medicine and administration.

Since the main deficiencies of the mental health services are likely to be with us until the end of the century, even on the government's estimate, the important thing is to ensure that places getting out of touch are identified more promptly and reorganized. Chronic mental patients are not often able to complain to the hospital ombudsman or to their Community Health Council. The new Hospital Advisory Service, whose function is precisely to spot cases of this kind, did not make much of a showing in the affair. More interdisciplinary contact, more discussion, simply more thought, could have prevented most of what went wrong at St Augustine's. If the complacency had not spread far beyond the staff of the hospital, up to the district and area authorities and beyond, the necessary action could have been taken long before.

NOT SECURITY BUT A THREAT TO ISRAEL

The violence in Galilee yesterday should be a warning to Israel. Nothing like the number of casualties in Nazareth has been known for years. For some time now a tragic situation has been developing. For almost two months in the occupied West Bank and for a month past in Galilee the scale of demonstrations and the consequent police repression have been mounting. The reasons have been varied and are now shown to be subjects of direct conflict between Arabs and Jews and not aggression from outside directed by the PLO as was at first alleged. In such circumstances the conflict becomes self-generating, the police action and the casualties on one occasion become sufficient cause for the next demonstration.

As usual, the young have been the most active, but for the most part their teachers have supported them. However much communist instigation may originally have been to blame, Arabs of all religious and political persuasions have now joined in the pro-

test and they have carried with them the mayors of Arab towns. Something like a fixed confrontation between Israel authority and Arab resistance has thus developed to a point beyond which no action, if taken, would be lowered and the demonstrations are to die away the Israel Government will have to risk some bold political moves.

This could mean making a sharp distinction between those who would argue that the Israel state must for its own security be limited in size and he confined as far as is reasonably possible to a Jewish population and those who have instinctively, if not as a matter of declared policy, looked to any opportunity of expanding the territory of the state irrespective of the number of Arabs thereby brought under Israel administration. The new borders are expected to be militarily more defensible than the old, but Israel is made weaker not stronger. Of course the distinction between these two views

of Israel territory has long been blurred by circumstances and by the legacy of the successive wars. Yet the evidence of Arab discontent in recent months must make it ever more clear that too large an Arab population presents an insoluble problem. Some move must soon be taken that can divert the growing ill-feeling.

This can mean only a decision in principle that envisages Israel withdrawal from the West Bank territory. It would be made credible by measures that prohibit the creeping intrusion into the Arab areas of those who intend that Jewish settlement will give an established claim to the territory as a part of Israel that cannot be given up. Mr Rabin's past promises may have made it difficult for him to find a formula that will allow Arab fears. Yet the troubles of the past two months should have made it clear that the old pursuit of secure borders will always be misguided when the borders embrace a large Arab population.

slice under the guise of entertainment to which the public in general may not be wholly aware. I refer to the current phoozie style programmes now so popular on radio, even the more serious of those presented by the BBC. On one such typical programme recently on BBC Radio 4 a woman told how she had lived in Germany during the rise of Hitler, and likened it to the present situation in Britain today. She concluded by claiming that the elected members of Hillingdon Borough Council were, and I quote, "in fact almost Communist, really". This was an unfounded, scurrilous slander on the members of the council, as there is no one who is a Communist or a member of that party.

Indeed, among those in the majority Labour Group are many who are devout churchmen and women, while some are active members of the Roman Catholic Church, and at least one is employed by a religious organization. To them the slander was particularly offensive as communism is repugnant to their socialist ideals, yet they and the other members of the council were defenceless against such attack and intrusion into their characters.

In other radio and television programmes it is usual for the producer to give such victims an opportunity of denying such allegations, but with the phoozie type of broadcast this is not so. Unfortunately, these programmes are cheap to produce and are proliferating, and while I have dealt with a political matter, any person or organization is equally at risk from malicious mischief people so long as they go unchecked.

Therefore, I believe the BBC and the Independent Broadcasting Authority should insist that, when such statements are made, producers should be bound to make genuine, strenuous efforts immediately to contact persons and organizations so named, and offer them their basic principle so fundamental in British life—the right of reply.

Yours sincerely,
J. G. BARTLETT,
Leader of the Council,
London Borough of Hillingdon,
Majority Party Office,
Council Offices,
255 High Street,
Uxbridge, Middlesex.
March 29.

Pleasures of spring

From Mr F. A. Sowen
Sir, Whenever there is a fine Sunday in March, *The Times* duly, dutifully, and apparently enthusiastically observes the emergence of moorlands from whatever moor it is, there is no mention of other, less dangerous, less offensive, more healthy, and more creative springtime occupations such as walking Chiltern footpaths, digging the garden or allotment, painting the house, or photographing wild-flowers. Perhaps *The Times* is afflicted to the British Road Federation?
Yours pedantically,
F. A. SOWAN,
1 Chaucer Cottages,
Pilgrims Way,
South Croydon,
Surrey.

Radio phone-ins

From the Leader of Hillingdon Borough Council
Sir, I am drawing attention to what I believe is an ever-increasing and noxious erosion of the freedom of the individual and organizations

Newspaper decline in Manchester

From Mr Alan Fitch, Labour MP for Wigan, and others

Sir, We are seeking support here in the North-West for a cause which, we believe, is being dangerously neglected. Unless it is taken up vigorously, future generations will denounce us for our apathy.

We refer to the sensational decline in recent years of Manchester as Britain's second national newspaper centre. It is a decline only paralleled in these parts by the post-war contraction in the cotton industry.

Since the war a dozen major papers, published to Manchester, have gone to the wall and now three more great national newspapers are "rationalizing" their processes in the name of technological progress. Seven hundred jobs will be lost, including those of nearly three hundred journalists.

While seven hundred jobs in these days of high unemployment may not appear to be an excessive sacrifice for one industry to make in the name of scientific progress, what causes serious concern to the people in the North-West is the threat to the democratic processes which is posed by such a decline in newspaper production. It is not that seven hundred people in newspapers are more important than seven hundred others in the mill towns. It is the loss of their papers to our communities which chiefly concerns us.

The loss to our region of 200 creative journalists must mean a diminution of the northern voice in national affairs. New technological processes, it is argued, will still ensure the continuation of northern news. But the three national papers concerned, but the switching to London of the basic journalistic decisions involved in newspaper production—reporting, subediting and make-up—will mean that the character of the papers will be changed. The provincial voice of the north will be stifled.

If our fears are being over-stated let London, and Fleet Street in particular, consider this. Should it happen by the end of this century, with the development of a more unified Europe, the British daily paper is made-up in Brussels, Paris or Bonn—all in the name of good economic common sense—will the affairs of London, or indeed of Britain, be more faithfully and fearlessly reported in a continental-based press?

And yet that is the problem that may have to be faced before the end of this decade, unless serious consideration is given now to the maintenance of a healthy and free press based in provincial Britain.

We are not concerned with the reasons for the decline, but with the present state of affairs. They are complex and we might even disagree about where responsibility lies.

What concerns us is that the Government, and the industry itself, give serious consideration to the long-term consequences for democracy caused by the alarming rundown of the national press to Manchester. If its decline is a portent of a new pattern of newspaper technology and distribution, it augurs ill for the reflecting of democratic processes at the grass roots.

Yours truly,
ALAN FITCH,
TOM NORMANTON,
CYRIL SMITH,
ALLEN OF FALLOWFIELD,
HARNETT OF WARRINGTON,
Chairman, Warrington New Town Corporation,
R. E. THOMAS, Leader,
Greater Manchester County Council,
W. H. SEFTON, Chairman,
North West Economic Planning Council,
LEONARD BROUGHTON, Chairman,
Lancashire County Council,
March 29.

Devolution for Wales

From Lord Merthyr

Sir, In her interesting letter on devolution for Wales (March 25) Miss Jan Morris is silent, as so many others have been, as to what proportion of the national debt of the United Kingdom should, on devolution, be taken over and serviced by Wales.

Yours faithfully,
MERTHYR,
Saundersfoot,
Dyfed,
March 26.

Daredevil Valley motorway

From Mr Andrew Warren

Sir, Your correspondence upon the proposals for the section of the M25 due to be built between Sevenoaks and Swanley has tended to ignore the fact that though they discuss investment, to provide one part of an outer orbital motorway around the Greater London area.

This road, so long advocated, will when completed provide a satisfactory route for many existing radial routes running in and out of the South-East—the M1 going north, the M4 to the West and Wales, the M3 to the South-West, the M2 and M20 to the South-East, the M11 to East Anglia.

It will give substantial relief to dozens of towns and villages whose residential and shopping streets are at present blighted by heavy through traffic. It will also provide a valuable missing link as part of the comprehensive nationwide system of trunk roads long promised by Governments of both parties.

In urging the rapid completion of all the sections of this route, I would not attempt to minimize the many problems ahead for the planners in trying to integrate such a motorway into the countryside. But skilful landscaping has been achieved by motorway builders many times in the past—the M6 passing through the Lune Gorge in Westmorland, to name but one example. I am convinced that given co-operation, goodwill and above all realism, its construction will be seen to be—indeed will be—of considerable benefit to us all.

Yours faithfully,
ANDREW WARREN,
Secretary, Movement for London,
26 Manchester Square, W1,
March 29.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Maintaining standards in education

From Mr Norman St John-Stevens, Conservative MP for Chelmsford

Sir, I very much commend the courage and realism of Dr Thwaites' letter in your columns on March 25 about the serious problems universities face in monitoring academic standards among students who are not attaining basic skills in schools.

I have long been worried by the fact that we have been spending ever increasing amounts on education without necessarily obtaining a commensurate increase in educational standards in our schools. This has led me to look at the problem from the start of the educational process, namely from the primary schools.

At the Conservative Party conference in Blackpool in October, 1975, I drew attention to this and called for the reintroduction of national standards for literacy and numeracy so that even the child entering secondary school knows how to read easily, write legibly, spell correctly, add up and to express himself or herself in good clear English.

I have called for a process of continuous assessment in our schools so that pupils in need of remedial teaching are recognized at an early stage and their difficulties rectified with a minimum of dislocation in their school careers. I very much hope that the assessment of performance unit set up within the Department of Education and Science will concern itself with the monitoring and improvement of social contacts between staff and students in more badly needed.

Yet there is a problem. We face a period of financial stringency. If we restrict numbers, what do we do about those who are disappointed?

Can we perhaps make more use of broadcasting for this purpose? No ideal perhaps, but I am sure students would respond if they realize that this would make it possible for more of their contemporaries to receive higher education.

Is there not scope for more sharing of staff and facilities between universities and polytechnics? Perhaps we might even see a change of attitude by the CNA to the degree of the Independent University which would contribute to university life without costing the taxpayer a penny.

Yours faithfully,
NORMAN ST JOHN-STEVENS,
House of Commons.

Latin Vespers in the Abbey

From Father Francis McCarthy

Sir, The letter from the Very Rev P. Morgan (March 29) on Latin Vespers in Westminster Abbey surprised us by its vehement tone and ungracious attitude towards the Dean and Chapter. We are sure we are speaking for the great majority of our brother priests in welcoming the Dean's kind invitation to Archbishop Rume and the Archbishop's own emphatic statement that the ancient quarrel between Rome and Canterbury was now "dead and buried".

Let it be thought that Father Morgan represents any widely held opinion on the part of Catholics in this country we should like to point out that he was, in fact, ordained in Eocene seminary, an institute recently disowned by Paul VI because of its persistent refusal to accept the reforms of the Second Vatican Council.

We cannot but be disappointed that FRANCIS MCCARTHY, MARTIN FLEISCHMANN, BRENDAN SULLIVAN, PETER J. DIRVEN, JOHN TAYLOR, LUDWIG LESTER, FRANCIS GROOT, W. HALLAM, LOUIS DUGGAN, St Joseph's College, Mill Hill, NW7, March 29.

Corporatism in Britain

Mr Nevil Johnson

Sir, The attempt by Messrs. Pahl and Winckler (March 26) to delineate corporatism is to be welcomed, but there do seem to be important gaps in their account of this matter.

First, they claim to be describing corporatism as a new economic system distinguishable from corporatism as a totalitarian political system. But the two are inseparable. Certain principles in this emergent corporatism, they say little about the terms on which the new economy will work, to what allocation methods will be used. We are told where the productive resources will be allocated according to criteria of profitability (unless "success" is to be equated with profitability) nor about the extent to which a market would survive in which consumers' preferences would help to determine prices.

Without some degree of market determination of prices, the corporatist economy has no allocative mechanism providing criteria for judging whether resources are being used efficiently for the satisfaction of the wide range of competing demands. This is a familiar problem in state-controlled economies where allocation becomes essentially a matter for political decision, and as a result there are substantial restrictions placed on the ability of the consumer to satisfy his preferences and, usually, to choose his job.

There is certainly plenty of evidence in Britain of a drift towards suspension of the market pricing mechanism as the main allocative principle governing the use of resources. But equally this principle has not yet been thrown overboard, and indeed even the Government's rhetoric about the regeneration of industry appears to assume the retention of a market, for if not, what sense is there in talking of investment in successful

the examination system. As the late Lord Crowther said, "examinations provide a means of showing pupils where they stand, of providing them with an incentive to continue, and of raising habits of work and standards of attainment".

In this connection we should all take note of the decline in standards the University Grants Committee in their annual survey for the academic year 1974-75, pinpointed at university entrance level in science and technology and in languages and in other Arts subjects. It is precisely for this reason that I would require a good deal more evidence that it would be right to introduce a common examination at 16-plus.

My main fear is that because such an examination would have to cover such a wide range of ability, it would either not provide a real test of ability in the case of the academic child or, alternatively it would contain many questions which the less able child would be unable to attempt.

What we have to decide is how we can get the right balance between numbers and quality in universities. We have already had to dilute staff:student ratios. Many of our problems today are caused by largeness: the largeness of the concern we work for; the large size of our schools; and so on. We must be wary of allowing our universities to travel the same path. They are dealing with young people at an impressionable age, and there has never been a time when social contacts between staff and students is more badly needed.

Yet there is a problem. We face a period of financial stringency. If we restrict numbers, what do we do about those who are disappointed? Can we perhaps make more use of broadcasting for this purpose? No ideal perhaps, but I am sure students would respond if they realize that this would make it possible for more of their contemporaries to receive higher education.

Is there not scope for more sharing of staff and facilities between universities and polytechnics? Perhaps we might even see a change of attitude by the CNA to the degree of the Independent University which would contribute to university life without costing the taxpayer a penny.

Yours faithfully,
NORMAN ST JOHN-STEVENS,
House of Commons.

Battle of Hastings site

From Mr Edward Beaumont

Sir, Your correspondent Mr R. V. Ashdown's letter (March 27) causes my Norman blood to become slightly heated. It was not we who were defeated at Hastings; on the contrary, we are in part the result of that conquest. This makes the battle a most important one.

Yours faithfully,
EDWARD BEAUMONT,
15 Grosvenor Road, Donington,
Chichester,
Sussex,
March 29.

Emigration of doctors

From Dr G. E. Crawford

Sir, By the close of 1975 three new factors will have considerable effect on the future of the National Health Service. The United Kingdom and the EEC have agreed to free movement of doctors. Language difficulties may be a problem for some clinicians but to the specialties of pathology, radiology and anaesthetics, this will be of minor importance. As one colleague has already remarked, "the bacteria of 'peak doctors'". There is no need to emphasize the effect of the loss of such medical manpower.

Agreement has been reached on the mutual recognition of medical degrees and "formal qualifications of specialized medicine". Young doctors will be recognized, appointed and paid as specialists, in roughly half the time taken for qualification in the United Kingdom.

Many of their generation are multi-lingual and more European in their outlook than their teachers. Associated with the independent review revealing that United Kingdom doctors are the lowest paid in the Community, emigration to Europe will thus become an attractive prospect to NHS practitioners. Twenty years ago, when the government and the medical profession were in conflict, we lost young men and women at the rate of 600 annually. The NHS has never recovered from such loss of its seed corn, depending now upon overseas doctors to keep the service creaking along. Government must realize that for the first time since employment in the NHS has been open to women, it is competing with the rest of the Nine in respect of remuneration, it is prudent to embark on legislation which will alienate the profession? At present, with many untitled consultant posts and general practitioners with little previous experience being appointed to succeed in practice vacancies, a loss through emigration on the 1950s scale will be a disaster. Time is short. Restoration of confidence by the profession, in government, is a matter of urgency.

Yours faithfully,
G. E. CRAWFORD,
10 Hampstead Road,
Liverpool,
March 24.

Footing the wedding bill

From Mr Terence Allan

Sir, In the days when a girl didn't go out to work and stayed at home until an acceptable suitor could be found, her marriage was a financial as well as a social achievement for her parents—and it was the measure of a father's relief that he stumped up for the wedding.

But nowadays, when equal pay and opportunity give a girl financial independence, and changing social patterns mean that parents have little or no influence on her choice of husband, it is surely something of an anachronism that the bride's parents should still foot the bill.

As the father of three daughters of marriageable age, I admit in bias—and I do not doubt that my counterpart, with sons, would defend the practice to the pop of the last champagne cork!

Yours faithfully,
TERENCE ALLAN,
Rother Hill,
Stedham,
Midhurst,
Sussex,
March 29.

Time to stop letting the motor car rule all our lives

Pamela Johnson, a member of the National Transport Working Party of the Conservative Society and of Transport 2000, contributes this week's guest column.

The Department of the Environment recently sponsored a study, admired in *The Times* by Mr Gabriel Roth, which recommends the conversion of much of the rail network to roads. However, this study is not based on a comprehensive comparison of different modes, but starts from the simple assumption that railways lose money and roads yield a return on capital. If railways are replaced with roads, so the theory goes, we shall have a profitable transport system.

A critical analysis of this concept is the subject of a paper to be issued by my working party next month. Here I can only sum up the problems of this particular conversion concept from rail to road as costly and unworkable. Furthermore, this old chestnut of a solution to our transport problems is really no more than another proposal for routes for new trunk roads. It follows that the problems of the conversion concept are almost identical with those of any road-based transport system.

On the basis of the assessment of the problems of existing road policies a number of groups in this country have long been urging for reforms. However, apart from a few important but local achievements, official thinking in the Environment Department is unchanged. This would be acceptable if our case had been proved wrong. But it has not. Instead, more people and facts support it.

What are the major points which official transport policy makers refuse to face? One is that there is no integrated transport policy, for either passengers or freight. Another is that the transport planning that does exist conflicts with other official policies of equal importance. It is government energy policy to "Save It". But road policies commit the country to the most energy-wasteful forms of transport.

Countless official documents say that transport should be provided as a social service. Official policy does not actually intend to deprive people of a way of getting about, but the road programme effectively does just that. New roads and car parks encourage car use; that discourages public transport, bus and

rail, which leads to its decline, which forces more people to find alternatives.

By perpetuating the road programme, government policy actually sanctions an undeclared civil war on the roads in which about 20 people die each day, and 1,000 are hurt more than a fifth seriously.

Government land-use policies distinguish town from country, call for greater home food production, and try to preserve areas of outstanding natural beauty. But policies catering for cars and lorries entail the use of an enormous amount of land, usually blurring the distinction between town and country, using land which grows food and which has been designated as area of outstanding natural beauty.

The economic and traffic aspects of road planning have also been challenged. Official forecasts of future car ownership—one car per 45 people—on which the road programme is finally justified, have been shown to be nothing but forecasters' guesses, based on questionable statistics.

If, however, their forecasts were right, and the inter-urban road programme completed, this vast number of cars and lorries could not fit into towns and cities where the network would end. Some could, but we cite worldwide experience as evidence that traffic levels rise to fill the space provided, thus re-creating the congestion.

We have stated in papers and at inquiries that systems composed of main lines and branches—roads, telephones, sewers or train networks—must accept "losses" on their branches. They carry low levels of traffic but are essential to feed the main arteries.

All these factors could be compared with regard to the different transport modes if one cost accounting system were in use; at present different official accounting systems are applied to the different modes. Quantifiable or not, such "equations" would include evaluations of social and environmental costs.

Each year the British Railways Board looks like a money-loser, not primarily because it could be more efficient, but because there is no roadward board to add up all the costs attributable to the road programme, to cost, for example, feeder roads in the same way that branch lines are costed. We can show that road users are more heavily subsidised than rail users. Using one accounting system might well lead to proposals for converting roads into railways.



The essence of our case is that the purposes which new roads are supposed to serve could be achieved by using existing rail and waterway capacity more fully, along with existing roads, in an integrated fashion. There is no need to ban the car to achieve this; only to restrict its use in certain places and not allow its present use-level to increase elsewhere.

Since the 1950s and 60s, when the road programme was devised, there has been a transformation of the world energy food commodity situation. There has also been growing awareness of the discrimination, inherent in present road policies, against the majority by the minority of those with access to a car. Why then has there been no change in transport priorities?

That official policy is not responding to reality can only be understood by reference to this country's massive road lobby. They have

established a special position of influence within the Environment Department.

If power politics explains why the car industry instead of an integrated transport system will be subsidised, then there is a need for the decision-making process to become more open and more democratic.

Overworked MPs simply cannot compete with the Environment Department in making and controlling transport policy. The last full scale debate in Parliament on the road programme was in 1967. When select committees or individual MPs have tried to bring about change (as over energy conservation in transport and the right of objectors to question the need for a road at inquiries), they have been ignored or thwarted by the Environment Department.

We should have national public hearings on the discussion document or green paper on transport policy

which the DoE is about to issue. This would subject decision-makers to cross-examination on the processes they use. Considering the importance of the issues to the lives and pockets of every man and woman, they ought to be televised. Such a forum would enable all lobbies to put their case to help Parliament to direct and control transport policy.

As an American, I have seen what damage excessive use of the car does to both the subtle and the more obvious aspects of the quality of life. In the USA large sums are now being spent to revive the railways and improve local bus services. As a long time Anglophile (living here), I am depressed that Big Brother, the Environment Department, has been able to avoid responding to Parliament and continues to ignore what seem to be unanswerable arguments.

Times Newspapers Ltd, 1976

Should a doctor tell the truth when a patient has cancer?

Prevarication, euphemisms, and sometimes flat lies are entrenched traditions in doctors' attitudes to their patients with cancer—at least in Britain. My own least welcome task as a young house-surgeon was talking to the wives of men who had just had operations for carcinoma of the lung. The consultants for whom I worked did not believe in letting patients know they had cancer, but someone had to be told what had been done and why.

Having explained to the wife that the outlook was serious and to the husband that his operation had been a success, often we left couples to face the few months left in them with an enormous barrier of deceit between them. That was some years ago, but attitudes have remained largely unchanged; many doctors still believe that their patients should never be told that they have cancer.

There may be a case for reticence when a doctor knows his patient is dying; sometimes the maintenance of a fiction of hope is essential for morale—though experience in hospitals specialising in the care of the dying suggests that most people find the removal of the traditional web of deception a great relief. But doctors' reluctance to discuss impending death with patients cannot in any way justify their taking a similar attitude to a diagnosis of cancer.

Cancer is not synonymous with death: indeed many of the common cancers—those of the breast, bowel, and uterus—have cure rates of 50 per cent or better when treatment is given early in the course of the disease. Nor is it the most common cause of death in Britain. Both coronary thrombosis and stroke kill more people each year. Yet there is far less aura of fear and secrecy attached to heart disease; doctors and patients can and do have practical discussions about the prevention of further attacks and the prospects for long survival.

The malignant reputation of cancer is enhanced by the secrecy surrounding it. The thousands of patients cured by early operation each year often have no idea that the "ulcer" or the "patch of infection" that the surgeon removed was in fact cancer. Moreover the term cancer covers a whole spectrum of disease. Cancer need not cause pain—indeed in its early stages it is characteristically painless; it may develop very slowly, and many old people die with their cancers rather than from them. No doubt it was reasonable to equate cancer with death at the beginning of this century, when the diagnosis was rarely made until the condition was too

far advanced for surgical cure to be possible. Nowadays, with greater public awareness of the nature of the disease and earlier and better treatment, such an attitude is long outdated.

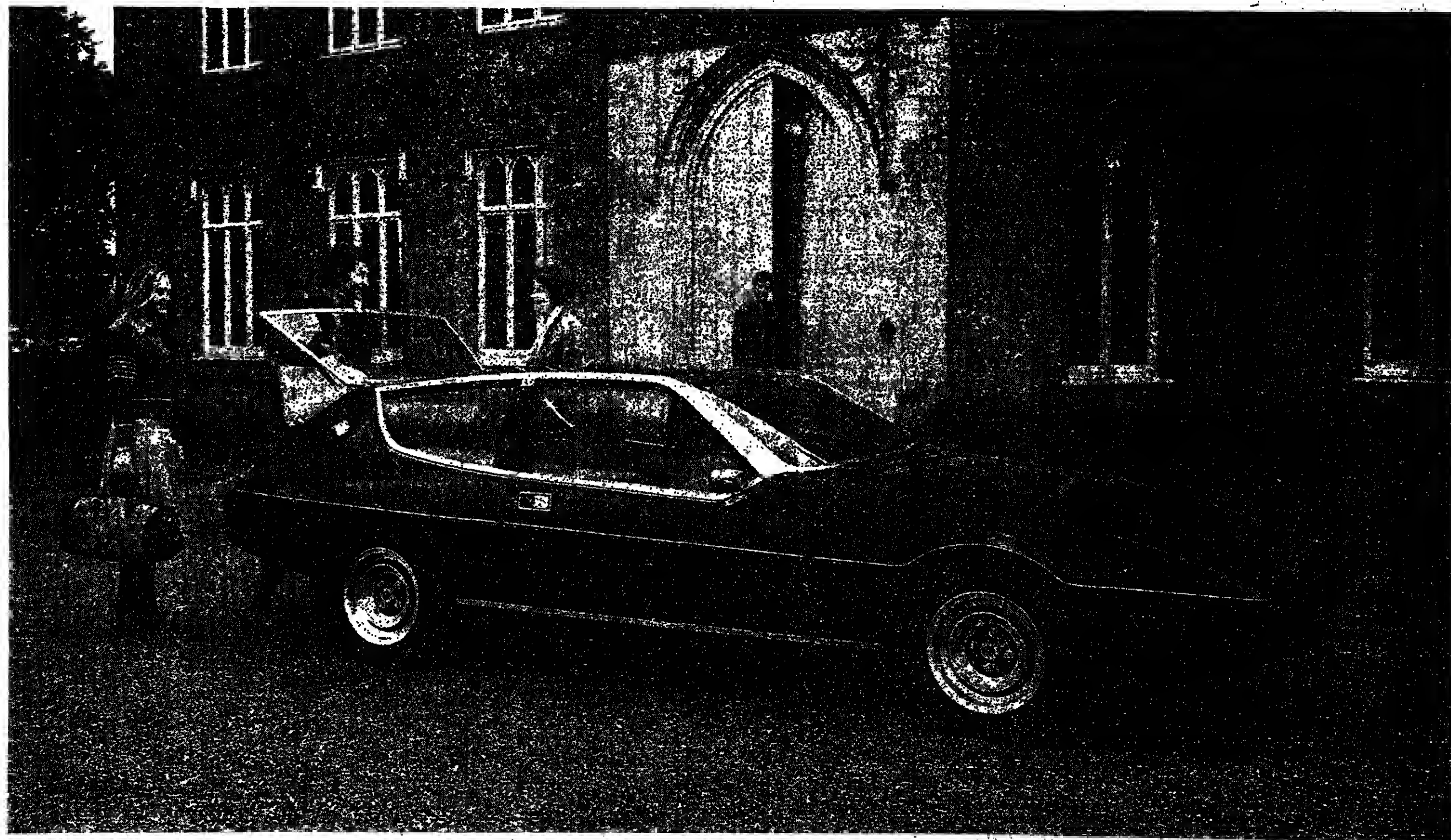
Fortunately, the whole medical approach to cancer is undergoing a radical change. Patients and their relatives are less willing to accept medical advice uncritically. A woman with a breast cancer is now likely to be aware that different surgeons may have widely varying approaches to treatment, some favouring major surgery while others recommend simple removal of the tumour, and may reasonably expect to be allowed to discuss these possibilities with her doctor.

Furthermore, the increasing complexity of modern cancer therapy makes it essential that the patient is taken fully into the confidence of the team planning his treatment: this may, for instance, include a course of radiotherapy and two years or more of drugs, some of which may have unpleasant side effects. Such a programme should not be imposed upon a patient without his or her full knowledge of its implications and any likely complications.

Is it so unreasonable to say to a woman, "You have a 50 per cent chance of being cured by the removal of your breast", and if she later proves to be one of the unlucky ones, to tell her that with drug treatment and further surgery she can expect between two and five years of reasonable health? After the first operation any surgeon can tell his patient whether the chances of a cure are 10 per cent, even, or 50 per cent; and if the disease is beyond cure he can explain that treatment will have to be defensive. Certainly it is rarely possible to make a really accurate estimate of the likely length of survival; but no one expects that.

Once the patient has been taken into the doctor's confidence, the two of them can periodically review the progress of the disease and its response to treatment. Already this sort of open discussion is commonplace in north America, and the same standards seem to be expected by prominent figures in our own society—entertainers, athletes, and politicians. More talk about cancer would help to demystify it, remove much of the fear and shame still associated with it, and perhaps help to encourage more people to seek medical advice early—still the cornerstone of successful treatment.

Dr Tony Smith



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THE TIMES

BUSINESS NEWS

Concorde: the cost of avoiding a stall, page 21

Sir Derek Ezra is reappointed NCB chairman for 3-year term

By Edward Townsend
Sir Derek Ezra is to be reappointed as chairman of the National Coal Board, Sir Derek, who is 57, will hold the post for another three years and then retire.
The reappointment was announced by Mr Benn, Secretary of State for Energy, and will apply from July 3.
Sir Derek will then be on a three-year instead of a five-year contract and will be 60 when it expires.
The appointments of four other senior full-time members of the board whose ages range from 58 to 65 all expire within the coming months. The present term of Mr D. M. Clement, aged 65, finance director, expires on Saturday; Mr L. Grainger, scientific director, who is 58, is due to renew his contract by May 31; Mr W. L. Milson, aged 63, the regional director, sees his appointment expire on July 4; and that of Mr G. C. Shepherd, aged 61, industrial relations director, ends on December 31.
In response to a Commons question, Mr Benn has published the text of a letter sent to mining unions in which he sought the "advice" of officials regarding future appointments.
The letter, sent on March 10 to the National Union of Mineworkers, the National Association of Colliery Overmen Deputies and Shovelers and the British Association of Colliery Management, included a list of future vacancies, including those of Sir Derek and other top managers, and asked for officials to recommend "suitable persons" from either the unions or existing management.

and I found nothing arising from these discussions which suggested there was any foundation behind it."
The three-year term had been agreed because at the age of 60 it would be the right time for him to make way for someone else. Since 1947 the coal industry had suffered from a good deal of government interference, but during the past two years the situation had been much better, he added.
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Lord Aldington to step down as chairman of Grindlay's Bank

By Christopher Wilkins
Banking Correspondent
Lord Aldington, chairman of Grindlays Bank, revealed yesterday that he is to leave the bank at the end of this year.
His announcement came with news of a second year of heavy losses by the bank, mainly because of persisting problems at its troubled merchant banking subsidiary, Brands.
Before tax, the 1975 loss was £7.64m compared to £6.64m the year before, but after a much higher tax charge, relating chiefly to profitable overseas business, the net loss for the year was £20.1m. This was more than double the previous year's figure of £9.99m.
Lord Aldington, who is 61 and has been chairman of Grindlays since 1964, explained yesterday that earlier denials of his resignation had related to reports that he planned to step down at the annual meeting. In fact he is to stay on until December, when he will be replaced by Mr Nigel Robson, presently the deputy chairman.
These reports followed suggestions that he had visited New York to discuss his resignation with First National City Bank, which last year enlarged its shareholding in Grindlays from 40 to 49 per cent.
He stated that he had been to New York to attend a routine board meeting of the American bank, of which he is a director. He emphasized yesterday that he had come under no pressure to resign, either by Citibank or Lloyds Bank, which holds 41 per cent of Grindlays Holdings.
In a statement to shareholders, he said: "The time



Lord Aldington: Time for a different approach.

seemed to me to be near when something other than my particular experience and my age would best help the bank and all those who work for it: a different approach might help more. I did not wish to be guilty of hanging on or to run away from difficulties untried."
His pending departure from the bank marks the completion of a phase of radical change for Grindlays. Traditionally strong in the old imperial territories of the Far East and Africa, it acquired a two-thirds stake in Brands in 1965, finally buying out the minority in 1972.
Subsequent attempts by Brands to expand took it into heavy property lending commitments, which in turn have led

to the alarming losses of the past two years and the much increased influence of Citibank.
The 1974 losses, compounded by the evidence that 1975 was going to see a further big deficit, prompted the bank to an urgent search for new capital.
The search culminated in Citibank injecting £5m in return for an increased equity stake and a more active managerial role. Grindlays also raised £27m of loan capital, which is believed to have been largely taken up by Lloyds.
The latest figures from Grindlays reveal that it has been necessary to provide £24m against bad debts by Brands during the past two years, predominantly against the property portfolio, originally £90m but now reduced to £75m.
The other London-based operations have also faced difficulties, and overall the United Kingdom operations lost £16m during 1975, before making transfers to general provision. But the overseas operations have been performing strongly, increasing their pre-tax profits by £5m and producing a net profit of £7.3m.
For the present year, Lord Aldington says that management is working to a plan which should lead to a further increase in overseas earnings, to a reasonable corporate and international banking profit and to an overall profit from the rest of the London business.
He says: "Unless there is some quite unexpected turn of events which damages some part of our business, 1976 should see the start of a resurgence in the profits of the group worthy of our management."
Financial Editor, page 21

Huge TriStar losses threat to Lockheed despite overall profits

From Frank Vogl
Washington, March 30
Lockheed Aircraft Corporation today announced increased earnings for 1975, but its statement noted vast losses on the Rolls-Royce engine TriStar jet programme.
Further, the company gave a warning of even greater losses on the TriStar for 1976, and stressed that its independent accountants would issue a qualifying opinion on its financial results.
The report is bound to give rise to further speculation about Lockheed's ability to reduce its huge volume of outstanding debts and avoid bankruptcy.
The company is one of America's biggest industrial concerns and the largest defence equipment contractor, with sales last year to the United States Government totalling \$2,216m (about £1,105m).
Lockheed's chances of survival hinge critically on its ability to restructure its debts and bore it must win the confidence of its bankers. Today's report announces increased net earnings of between \$22.1m and \$45.3m, but the disclosures of vast losses in future years on TriStar must unsettle some creditors.
The company's recent disclosures of losses and questionable payments to foreign government officials and politicians are already producing major problems as it strives to restructure its debts. The report adds that these revelations are adding to its problem of forecasting future financial results.
It says that estimates of when the TriStar may become profitable "have become subject to greater uncertainty because of factors affecting the airline

industry generally, as well as recent disclosures of commissions and other payments."
Lockheed stated that its pre-tax programme profits last year rose by \$20m to \$147m, but that it took a loss of \$12m on two ships it built, and, most importantly, it had to record pre-tax losses of \$93.8m on TriStar.
Because of increased uncertainties about TriStar, Lockheed is changing its accounting method for the programme. The old method was computed on the basis of 300 sales within a few years. Under the new system the company would amortize TriStar costs to earnings to the end of 1985, so long as studies continued to indicate that the costs were recoverable.
The company amortized \$12.5m of such costs in the final quarter of last year and there remains a balance of \$502.5m to be authorized in equal annual amounts.
Lockheed said: "TriStar operating loss for 1976 is expected to exceed that for 1975." It added that an accounting change had increased the TriStar operating loss last year by \$10.2m.
Further, the TriStar programme losses last year included \$49.1m of general and administrative expenses, \$4.9m of research costs, \$12.5m for potential losses on aircraft that must be resold and \$17.1m of standby production costs arising from reduced output levels.
The company obtained no firm orders for the TriStar last year and the programme is now a major source of concern. It remains hopeful, however, especially because so far it has managed to restructure some of its debt to produce substantial savings in interest payments. These payments, totalling \$68m in 1975, remain a big drag on the company's profitability.

Inquiry into £2.9m Ulster aid to failed industrialist

Mr Ewart Bell, Permanent Secretary of the Northern Ireland Department of Commerce, is to be summoned to appear before the Comptroller and Auditor-General to explain why his department backed a bankrupt Norwegian industrialist at a cost of about £2.9m to public funds.
The venture, aimed at bringing the manufacture of electronic cash registers to Londonderry, collapsed last night when a receiver was called into Regna International.
Regna was established by Mr Jorgan S. Lien in October, 1971, shortly after his operation in Bergen collapsed last night when a receiver was called into Regna International.
Despite the crash, the Stormont Department of Commerce continued negotiations and provided Mr Lien with capital of £1.6m. In addition, a specially-built factory on Londonderry's Springtown estate, and training schemes, were provided with public funds.
But the device which Stormont officials believed was the prototype of an electronic cash register was, in fact, merely an electro-mechanical machine. These were made obsolete by fully electronic registers, coming mainly from Japan.
In 1973 the Northern Ireland Finance Corporation moved in and took over Regna for only £170,000 after a boardroom coup in which Mr Lien was locked out by his executives. Fewer than one in 10 of the 400 cash registers in stock when the NIFC took over was found to work.
Efforts to merge the company with the Hampshire firm Rapid Data Systems foundered when Mr Orlie Baxall, Rapid Data's managing director, was held at gunpoint in a Provisional IRA raid during a visit to the Regna factory.
Without sufficient general engineering subcontract work to keep the company alive, the NIFC has now decided on liquidation, and yesterday called for a receiver. Instead of the 450 jobs the venture was originally designed to create, only about 100 workers remain to be paid off.

Eire to get 80 pc share in oil finds

Dublin, March 30.—Eire's Government has won agreement from eight groups of international oil companies for an 80 per cent Irish share in any commercial offshore oil discoveries.
Mr Justin Keating, Minister for Industry and Commerce, who signed formal exploration licence documents with the eight groups here today, said he was confident finds would be made.
"The Government was greatly encouraged that all the major oil companies which it wanted to come to Ireland had come. Their best judgment is that oil is there and that is good enough for me," he said.
Under the licences the 80 per cent state share comes from maximum state equity of 50 per cent, tax on profits of 50 per cent, and a sliding scale of royalties ranging between 8 and 16 per cent.
The signing ceremony concluded four years of negotiations over exploration terms, according to oil sources. The exploration areas cover some 4,000 square miles.
Prospects "modest": Mr Harold Wilson, director of the Northern Ireland Geological Survey, said in Belfast yesterday that there was a "reasonable chance" of finding commercial quantities of natural gas off Ulster's northern coast. But such a find would likely be of modest and the chances of a large find were slight.
He was speaking at a seminar of more than 200 businessmen to examine the opportunities presented by oil exploration off the coast of Ulster and the Irish Republic.
The Stormont authorities issued drilling licences for up to only three miles off the Northern Ireland coast and beyond that limit they were a matter for the authorities in London, he said.

Rolls planning second rights issue in year

By Ronald Pullen
For the second time in a year, Rolls-Royce Motors is planning to raise more money from shareholders.
After last April's £2m rights issue, the latest call—on the basis of one new share at 45p for every five shares or £5 nominal convertible loan stock held at present—will bring in £4.3m.
Despite the relatively generous terms, the yield on the new money is nearly 12 per cent and the issue is at a deep 30 per cent discount on the overnight price—the shares closed 3p higher at 62p yesterday.
Rolls-Royce requires fairly frequent cash injections to fund its substantial capital spending plans over the coming years.
As the company again underlined in its annual report yesterday, it regards its outlook as sufficiently good to press ahead with its "anticipatory" investment programme despite

the world-wide recession and the subdued start to the current year's trading, particularly in the diesel engine division.
Rolls-Royce was practically alone in the world car industry last year in managing to increase its level of profits. Demand for the Rolls marque continues to be firm, particularly in the important Middle East and United States markets, and production last year was at a record level of 3,134 units.
Expansion of the Crewe factory is planned. It is also thought that some of the money for the car division is earmarked for a new Silver Shadow model, which accounts for three-quarters of total output, following the successful launch of the Camargue model.
In addition to expanding capacity in both the car and diesel engine divisions, some of the rights issue money will be used to replace antiquated machinery.
Financial Editor, page 21

Loan aid to leather group

By John Whitmore
The Department of Industry is making available an unsecured loan of £1.94m to Barrow Hephurn, the leather tanning, chemical and industrial group, while the company is raising further £735,000 by a share placing.
Barrow raised £850,000 last summer by way of a rights issue, but the sharp rise in world hide prices has left the company with a much higher unexpected working capital requirement.
Over the past year the world price for hide has risen from 22p to 52p a kilo, and with economies putting out of recession in a year when the world cattle "kill" will probably be falling, the group expects prices to remain at their present levels or go higher.

Net borrowings last year rose from £10.7m to £13.7m and in the first two months of 1976 they have risen further, to £17.5m.
The loan from the Department of Industry, which carries a 12 per cent coupon and is repayable to the five years is 1982, is made under the 1972 Industrial Act and is primarily for the provision of new plant and buildings at the group's manufacturing centre at Beverley in Yorkshire.
The £735,000 raised by way of a placing, partly to the group's existing institutional shareholders, has been effected by an issue of 1.75 million shares at 42p a share.
Bankers to the issue were Lazard Brothers and the brokers Joseph Seligman.
Financial Editor, page 21

Approval for container complex

By Michael Erily
Shipping Correspondent
The case for a Maplin seaport in the foreseeable future finally collapsed yesterday when the Port of London authority announced Government approval for a £16m container complex on the riverside alongside the present Tilbury Dock.
The biggest port development on the Thames for over a decade, the new complex is designed primarily to provide lock-free berths for the big second generation container ships of the Australia and New Zealand trade, whose needs constituted the most pressing argument for Maplin.
However, the PLA emphasised yesterday that it was not withdrawing its long-term commitment to Maplin, which it saw as complementary to the new riverside berths in the 1980s and beyond.
Occupying a 64-acre site, 25 acres of which was reclaimed from the Thames, the new terminal will be developed jointly by the PLA, which will provide the infrastructure, and two container consortia, Overseas Containers Ltd and Associated Container Transport (Australia), who will provide all surface equipment and operate the terminal.
It will consist of a 1,000ft quay with 42ft of water, and the world's biggest river container storage facility, with capacity for 1,500 boxes at a time. Planned throughout will be up to 190,000 boxes a year, and the new terminal, which could be doubled in size later if demand justifies it, will release capacity at the PLA's common user terminal at present used by ACTA ships.

Singapore report identifies loss and gain factors in Haw share deals

Singapore, March 30.—The Singapore Stock Exchange said today that dealings in shares of Haw Par Brothers International between Slater, Walker Securities and Slater, Walker Equities, of London, through Slater, Walker (Singapore), and Hongkong companies as intermediaries, apparently produced "ultimate" losses for shareholders of Slater, Walker Australia.
The exchange, in a long report on the activities of two of the Singapore intermediaries, Beaver Securities and Beaver Singapore, detailed the route by which two blocks of Haw Par shares—one of 1.6 million and the other of five million (subsequently raised to 6.6 million by a bonus issue)—were transferred from

the London company to its then 35-per-cent-owned Australian associate.
The exchange said Beaver Securities and Beaver Singapore acquired 1.6 million and five million Haw Par shares respectively from Slater, Walker Equities, of London, through Slater, Walker (Singapore).
Both Beaver companies paid a price of \$51.43 a share, although the ruling market price on December 31, 1974—the date of the transactions—was \$53.52.
Statements issued by Slater, Walker, Australia, at the time said the Australian company was taking up the Haw Par stake "in order to facilitate closer investment cooperation between Slater, Walker's associates in Australia and South East Asia", the exchange said.
Beaver Securities subsequently sold its Haw Par

shares in March, 1972, through Slater, Walker Securities (Singapore), at a profit of \$55.6m.
Beaver Singapore went into liquidation and passed its Haw Par shares to a Hongkong subsidiary of Slater, Walker Australia.
As a result of the subsequent disposal of these Haw Par shares in the market and to other companies associated with the Slater, Walker Securities, group profits of Hongkong \$98.6m were realized, the exchange added.
Disposal of the shares in Hongkong started seven months after they were acquired, ostensibly as a long-term investment, it said.
The exchange said its report on the Beaver companies could be the last in its series of investigations into share dealings by Haw Par and related companies.—Reuters.

Swiss propose value-added tax

Berne, March 20.—Plans were announced today by the Swiss Government for a sweeping reform of the federal tax system, designed to provide an additional revenue of 3,000m francs (about £617m) annually, starting in 1978. Swiss voters must approve the project in a referendum next year.
A key part of the reform is the introduction of value-added tax, already in force in the European Community countries which are Switzerland's chief trading partners. It is expected to yield 3,400m francs, more than the sales tax now in force.—AP-Dow Jones.

Opec considers price strategy

Vienne, March 30.—Experts of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries have been meeting here this week to discuss oil price proposals after the present freeze expires on June 30, Dr Hamid Zakeri, spokesman for Opec headquarters, said today.
The experts were discussing the development of inflation in the Western industrialized countries and preparing an index linking the cost of industrial goods imported by the Opec countries to the price of oil, he said.
The reports will be submitted to Opec's economic commission.

Chrysler tackles opposition to worker directorships

By Clifford Webb
Talks will begin in Coventry today aimed at persuading union opposition to Chrysler UK proposals for worker-directors.
Full worker participation on the lines proposed by Chrysler nearly 10 months ago was one of the main conditions imposed by the Government for its £162m rescue deal.
Ostensibly today's meeting with national and local officials of all the unions and including officials of the Department of Industry, has been called to prepare the joint planning agreement which must be deposited with the Government during the next few months. It follows a preliminary meeting between Chrysler and union leaders on March 15.
Worker participation is such an integral part of the agreement that no worthwhile progress will be possible until this has been achieved. However, it became clear during the recent House of Commons expenditure sub-committee hearings on Chrysler that few, if any, of its shop stewards are prepared to take seats on the board or accept the principle.
Chrysler feels that without worker involvement at the highest level it cannot make participation work as effectively as both they and the Government would like.

Unless new arguments have been found to persuade the unions to change their minds it seems that the only way out will be a compromise solution with participation stopping short of directorships.
Chrysler will soon have to face another serious threat to its plans to return to profits next year—the granting of pay parity at all their plants. In 1972 the company bowed to long-standing demands from workers at Linwood, Scotland, Luton and Dunstable and conceded the principle of parity with its higher paid Coventry employees.
The result was a four-year programme designed to progress towards full parity sometime this year. In the last annual round of wage negotiations when Chrysler workers received a basic 5.8 a week increase from July 1, 1975, there were additional parity payments for workers at Linwood, Luton and Dunstable but they were not sufficient to close the gap entirely.
Negotiations will start during the next few weeks for the new pay agreement due to operate from July 1. But with the next stage of the voluntary pay code due to be settled between the TUC and the Government, these talks will be taking place in a void.

How the markets moved

| Rises | |
|---|--|
| Anglo Amer Ind 30p to 550p | |
| Bers'ds SW 6p to 163p | |
| Booker McCan 5p to 145p | |
| Clairance 4p to 36p | |
| Drake Cabrit 2p to 18p | |
| Bancan W 3p to 160p | |
| Biscuits 4p to 367p | |
| Falls | |
| Charter Cons 7p to 126p | |
| EMI 6p to 27p | |
| Gordon & Gotch 3p to 45p | |
| Hammerstein 5p to 335p | |
| Joseph L 10p to 180p | |
| Lavies 8p to 23p | |
| Metabax 11p to 22p | |
| Equities were nervous ahead of the Labour poll results. | |
| Gilf-edged securities held a good session. | |
| Sterling lost 10pts to \$1.960. The "effective devaluation" rate was 34.1 per cent. | |

| THE POUND | |
|---|--|
| Glaxo 5p to 383p | |
| Messina Trans 5p to 195p | |
| Midland 5p to 270p | |
| Smith W & A 10p to 352p | |
| Stra Maayan 5p to 155p | |
| UC Invest 5p to 205p | |
| Wheat Dist 5p to 151p | |
| Roan Cons 'S' 5p to 145p | |
| SA Land 5p to 130p | |
| Selection Tst 5p to 480p | |
| Southern 5p to 55p | |
| Swire Pacific 'A' 7p to 162p | |
| Town & Comm 11p to 6p | |
| Western Areas 5p to 180p | |
| Gold lost 50 cents an ounce to \$129. | |
| SDR-6 was 1.15494 on Tuesday while SDR-5 was 0.603291. | |
| Reached new high. Reuter's index was at 1286.7 (previous 1291.8). | |
| Reports pages 22, 23 & 24 | |

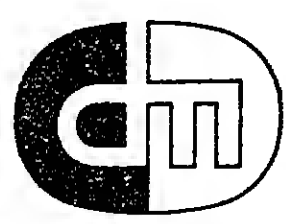
The Times index: 166.03 -0.37
The FT index: 404.2 -2.2

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Donald Macpherson Group

Improved performance in early months of current year

Addressing shareholders at the annual meeting in London on March 30, 1976 the chairman, Mr. Rex Chester, said:

"The improving trend of the second half of last year has been maintained in the early months of the current year.

In the United Kingdom, decorative volume is continuing to grow, and market share is increasing. Industrial volume is not yet reflecting any upturn in the economy, but here also market share is increasing.

Returns for the early months of the current year indicate considerable improvement in performance compared with the poor performance of the early months of 1975, and significantly higher sales and profits for the first half-year to the end of April 1976 are anticipated.

The company's investment programme is running well up to schedule and the first phase of the new decorative filling facility at Bury in particular, is now nearing completion."

| | 1975 | 1974 | 1973 | 1972 | 1971 |
|---|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Sales (£ millions) | 32.0 | 25.1 | 20.1 | 16.6 | 14.8 |
| Profit before taxation (£000) | 1556 | 1718 | 1526 | 1028 | 638 |
| Earnings per share* | 5.90p | 7.55p | 7.93p | 5.83p | 3.72p |
| Dividends per share* (gross/gross equivalent) | 3.30p | 2.89p | 2.27p | 2.17p | 1.81p |
| Shareholder funds (£ millions) | 8.2 | 7.0 | 6.2 | 5.4 | 4.2 |

*comparative figures adjusted for 1975 rights issue.

Copies of the annual report are available on request from the Secretary, Donald Macpherson Group Limited, Three Bury, Tower Hill, London, EC3.

Interweaving training with work

From Mr. J. H. Wright
 Sr., On successive days you
 have reported statements
 (from TDC and Business Edu-
 cation Council leaders) in
 which the need for employers
 to allow more students to
 attend courses on day-release
 has been mentioned. It is now
 often that we have so clear a
 demonstration of the uncon-
 ditioned and fragmentary way
 in which our educational sys-
 tem lurches along.

The general issue, narrow debate now launched by the Government as well as the consultations which preceded the announcement by EEC and the numerous other peripheral studies being made by Schools Council, SRC, SSRC and other bodies are unlikely to achieve significant results unless they can be related to the results of a wider study of the core problems which have been neglected for too long.

I believe that change is necessary in both the worlds of education and employment and an adequate study, such as I have in mind, would embrace a thorough review of education, training and employment from post-cradle to pre-retirement in present and prospective environments.

Among much else, such a study might explain why day-release is not used as much as the TUC and BEC would like and might propose that sixth-year pupils should spend half of their time only in school and half at work, with two pupils employed to fill one job by rotation on a daily, weekly or monthly cycle. The interweaving of subsequent employment with education/training might then become accepted practice.

Yours faithfully,
A. H. WRIGHT
Silver Birch,
Langhill Road,
Chisney Down,
Ascot.
Berks.
March 25.

could draw up a plan for action to improve the market position of United Kingdom consumer durables.

The exercise might best involve industry and government combined with both retail and wholesale representation, taking account also of views from such large interests as women's organizations, unions, and legislators, of standards and survey agencies.

Is there any such concern? It may be that such a working party would surely be welcomed.

Brian Locke,
The Athenaeum
FALL MAIL SWIRY SER.

(i) What the United Kingdom failings actually were towards the purchaser in markets at home and abroad ;

(ii) what the causes might be all along the chain from conception, via manufacture, sales and use, to recycling or destruction ;

(iii) what might need to be done (a) to correct current downward sales trends, (b) positively to improve matters ;

(iv) the extent to which improvement/change might be possible and the resources required ; and

the extent to which the needed results might best be achieved.

That is, the working party

(i) What the United Kingdom failings actually were towards the purchaser in markets at home and abroad ;

(ii) what the causes might be all along the chain from conception . via . manufacture .

(iii) what might need to be done (a) to correct current downward sales trends, (b) positively to improve matters;

(iv) the extent to which improvement/change might be

(v) how the needed results might best be achieved.

That is, the working party

improvement in the level of activity during the second half of the year. The Group is well placed to take full advantage of any such improvement.

Copies of the Report and Accounts may be obtained from the Secretary at Winchester House, 77 London Wall, London EC2N 1BY where the Annual General Meeting will be held on Tuesday, 27th April, 1976 at 10.30 a.m.

—PETER SMITH,
Chairman

| The year in brief | £'000 |
|--|--------|
| Turnover | 14,372 |
| Group Profit before Taxation and before Extraordinary item | 1,208 |
| Taxation | 616 |
| Earnings per 20p Ordinary Share | 7.44p |
| Net Asset Value per 20p Share | 52.37p |

Common Road Stafford ST16 3EH Tel: 0785 3199

BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

Grindlays after the losses

Stock market doubts that the half year provisions had seen the end of the Grindlays troubles have proved more than justified. After setting aside nearly £12m for "Brands" property book in the first half, Grindlays has since had to take up £10m of the £5.5m extra which it had put into general provision at that stage, and it must be anybody's guess whether there is more yet to come.

Overall, then, after £5m for mopping up the general provision, £27m of specific provisions and a more than trebled share charge, the year end net loss is more than doubled at £20.1m, and compares to £15.9m at the half year.

That leaves Grindlays with capital resources of £83m to set against deposits some £300m higher at £1,800m—hardly satisfactory, especially in the light of the impact of the recent sterling decline on currency deposits, but a ratio with which Grindlays at least says it is happy.

The figures are not without some cheer, however, as the 2p gain in the holdings' shares to 32p indicates. Overseas earnings have continued to surge, rising by 50m before tax with few problem areas, Cyprus apart. The reorganization in London, meanwhile, appears to be paying off, the first half United Kingdom losses before transfer to general provision of £14m being cut to £2m in the second. The United Kingdom should be profitable this year, with some £40m of tax losses still to work on. The problem, of course, is the dividend prospect, although at least a modest payment this year is assured since Grindlays is determined to keep its trustee status.

Grindlays Bank
Final: 1975 (1974)
Pre-tax losses £7.64m (£5.64m)
Loss per share 141p (81p)

Pye Holdings

Cuts the dividend

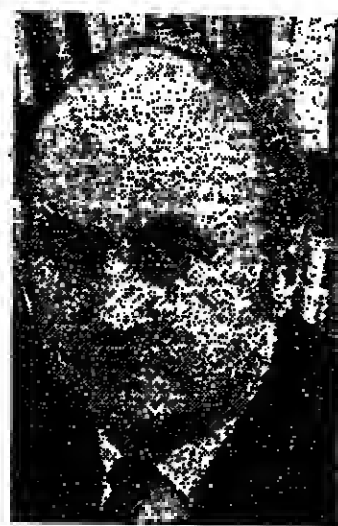
Pye Holdings' shares ended yesterday 4p up at 52p despite a cut of nearly one third in the net final dividend. True, the shares still yield a respectable 3 1/2 per cent, against 10 1/2 per cent on the basis of the 1974's dividends, but the market's snafu-froid may owe something to the fact that the cut was not immediately obvious from the results.

The decision to cut the dividend reflects in part Pye's own none too sanguine view of its prospects in 1976. But a more immediate factor is the jump from £2.23m to £3.93m in the sum appropriated after tax to "stock replacement reserve".

Pye's own form of inflation accounting adjustment. Obviously inflation is the root of material and component stocks was a factor here but the implication is that Pye was left carrying heavy stocks in 1975 because of adverse trading conditions, though apparently they began to fall around the end of the year. So, this year's appropriation should be considerably smaller.

Whether trading conditions will permit a restoration of the dividend depends largely upon colour television deliveries, which were very depressed in the second half of last year. United Kingdom manufacturers' capacity is moving down more in line with demand but selling prices remain weak. Redundancy costs on the consumer goods side cost trading profits between £1m and £2m last year but though this year's will bear much less of a burden the overseas operations, which held up so well last year, are expected to decline in 1976.

Capital goods—telephony—looks like being the only firm area this year, on the strength of overseas demand. The historic p/e of 5 is relatively undemanding but the shares could be a weak market pending.



Mr Ian Fraser, chairman of Rolls-Royce Motors, second rights issue within 12 months.

more evidence of a revival in consumer goods demand.
Final: 1975 (1974)
Capitalization £25.5m
Sales £233m (£204m)
Pre-tax profits £10.94m (£10.64m)
Earnings per share 10p (10p)
Dividend gross 4.47p (3.6p)
Pye of Cambridge.

Smith & Nephew

Write-offs at Gala

Smith & Nephew's shares are now exactly where they were in August, when I recommended investors to leave them alone until the end of the year. Smith & Nephew has now had to write £4.83m (less £1.54m in tax relief) off its stocks and debtors, because the sales figures reported by some Gala subsidiaries during 1974 turned out to have been based on hope rather than experience.

This figure has, however, been written off 1974 profits rather than those of the year just ended, which show only a modest improvement (0.7 per cent at the pre-tax level) on the total for 1974 as originally reported.

At first sight this looks like a cosmetic exercise. Smith & Nephew, however, insists that its companies with the relevant accounting standard, and that all the stocks thus written off were extant at the end-74 balance sheet date. Production excesses in 1975 consequent upon the unduly optimistic preceding year have come to the root in the cosmetic division's performance in 1975; the division went into the red by some £500,000 but following reorganization and a measure

What a catastrophic tale the history of Woolworth's Swiss franc borrowings has turned out to be. When it took on one five-year loan of 50m francs in June 1971 and another in February 1972 there were 10 francs to the pound so that the loans raised £10m for the company. By the end of 1974-75 the sterling cost of repaying these loans was £16.8m, a loss to shareholders of £6.8m. The 1975-76 accounts now show losses of a further £2m. Fortunately, Woolworth took out forward cover last December on the first of its loans which matures this year so it has secured some insulation against the latest sterling collapse. But forward cover can only be obtained within six months of a loan maturing so nothing can be done to protect the other loan, due for repayment next February, until August. In the meantime, the loss on that loan, with the franc below five to the pound, is already another £700,000, so that the loss on the original £10m is presently £9.5m.

of rationalization, losses have now been eliminated.

The plastics division, too, has been doing badly, with its contribution reduced by around two-thirds, and in neither case is there anything more than marginal improvement in demand showing through so far. However, the medical and textile divisions are both performing strongly, and by next year more than recovered the marginal decline of the preceding year.

Of itself, however, that is not likely to put much steam into the shares, now at 47 1/2p for a yield of 6.4 per cent.
Final: 1975 (1974)
Capitalization £70.5m
Sales £118.6m (£105.7m)
Pre-tax profits £11.82m (£6.9m)
Earnings per share 4.47p (3.2p)
Dividend gross 3.02p (2.3p)
As amended for prior year adjustment.

Barrow Hepburn

A cautionary tale

If one wants a foretaste of what an upsurge in commodity prices could do to British industry, this year, then Barrow Hepburn provides as good a cautionary tale as any. With the world wide price more than doubling over the last year, Barrow Hepburn's working capital requirements have inevitably soared, the more so as the group has, understandably, tried to accumulate as much stock as possible before prices go still higher.

Despite the last summer's £850,000 rights issue, short-term borrowings last year went up from £1.8m to £5m and total borrowings from £10.7m to £13.7m, where they stood against shareholders' funds (including £1.4m goodwill) of £10m. Since then borrowings have moved up to £17.5m, by far the greater part of which is short-term or repayable within five years.

Quite reasonably, the group has not wanted to launch a further rights issue at, say, a 30 per cent discount. As it is a further 10 per cent addition to the equity at a near 11 per cent discount to the overnight price looks to add under 2 per cent to gross working capital. But if the proposed funding looks to be the best bet from the shareholders' viewpoint, the taxpayer might well ask why the company should not have raised funds available on an unsecured basis in what is now a very highly geared situation.

Rolls-Royce Motors

Heavy capital demands

Two rights issues in under a year and the story for Rolls-Royce shareholders who must now be prepared to put up extra cash at fairly frequent intervals. Deprived of the money from the 1973 issue for sale by the liquidator, RR has found itself solely undercapitalized.

Given the heavy demands of the capital spending programme—vital for RR's long-term future—funding a huge war ahead and a level of retentions inadequate to cover the increased scale of RR's activities, it is anyone's guess as to the amount it will need to inject over the next few years.

Aside from concern over the balance sheet—where an early attack on stock levels is crucial whatever the company asserts about the cheapness of EGCC finance—RR is still vulnerable so far as trading is concerned.

Those doubts show up in the generous terms of the latest rights issue RR has had to offer to ensure the success of the offering. As it had before the yield, 9.1 per cent on the ex-rights price of 59p, is the main backdrop.

The aircraft industries of Britain and France expressed intense disappointment yesterday at what they considered to be a lack of decisions on the future of Concorde taken by ministers of the two partner governments at their review meeting in Paris on Monday.

Mr. Gerald Kaufman, Minister of State at the Department of Industry for Britain, and M. Marcel Cavallé, the French Minister of Transport, found themselves in an impossible position to meet the industry's demands.

How could they justify the laying down of six further Concorde, they asked industry leaders yesterday, when seven of the original 16 aircraft in Toulouse about the size of the threat to their jobs.

If additional aircraft to the 16 production-line Concorde now building or on the stocks had been ordered, or even planned, further phases of reductions. But there are fears in Bristol, where some 90 per cent of nearly 8,000 workers at Filton are involved in Concorde, including the highly specialized design staff, that it will be hard to avoid progressive erosion of the workforce as times goes by.

BAC, at any rate officially, is not at this moment contemplating further phases of reductions. But there are fears in Bristol, where some 90 per cent of nearly 8,000 workers at Filton are involved in Concorde, including the highly specialized design staff, that it will be hard to avoid progressive erosion of the workforce as times goes by.

BAC is already well into a six-month programme, due to finish in May, which is whittling down Concorde employment by a total of 2,400 jobs at Filton, Bristol, Weybridge to Surrey, and other sites. The plan is to reduce the workforce by 1,000 jobs in the first half of 1976, and by a further 1,400 in the second half.

It still means forced redundancies for 350 workers at the Filton assembly hangars where the Brabazon were once built, 230 at Weybridge where forward and rear fuselage sections of Concorde are constructed, 130 at Filton which makes Concorde's nose cone section and 80 at the Fairford flight test centre.

The decision to produce more Concorde spares is not going to ease this rundown.

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Stamp duty

It seems that one of the most bizarre manifestations of past fiscal policy is likely to benefit from the view that it is best to invest one's money in tangible collectors' items—in the interests of beating inflation, of course.

On April 27 Stanley Gibbons is holding another of its Paper Money auctions, and among the items coming under the hammer are German 20, 50 and 100 billion mark notes issued in February 1924, by Reichsbank. When issued the three notes would have been worth at most a total of £59, but are now expected to sell for £3,250.

Jack's aide

Todd Sullivan is few people's idea of a trade union leader. His history before arriving at Britain's largest union includes the management side of labour negotiations, the Commission on Industrial Relations, and the general secretaryship of a house union.

Now only 18 months after bringing the Union of Kodak Workers into the Transport and General Workers' Union he has been taken into Transport House by Jack Jones as national secretary for white collar members in the private sector.

Staff writers in Britain and France discuss the uncertain future of the Anglo-French supersonic aircraft

Concorde: the cost of avoiding a stall

Mr Kaufman and M Cavallé have been under pressure from the aircraft firms to build more Concorde, or to start work on a detailed version—the mark two aircraft.

The aircraft firms believe these propositions to be essential for two major reasons: (1) To keep the technical teams in the Concorde, and are not likely to return from the project a moment after the airline had made a down payment.

At the same time, it would not have cost an enormous amount of money to have laid down the foundations of a further six Concorde—say £10m for Britain and a similar amount of money for France. Long-term items for Concorde 17-22 were in fact authorized by the two governments in 1973

and which offends airport authorities with its noise on take-off and landing.

Even the investment of a small further tranche of money say a total of £20m by the two governments in work towards the bigger and better Concorde would indicate to potential foreign airline buyers that they are interested in the future of the Concorde, and are not likely to return from the project a moment after the airline had made a down payment.

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and are already in the factories.

This would ensure that the assembly lines are at least kept ticking over against potential further orders—the Department of Industry confirmed in London yesterday a trade union rumour that negotiations are going on between the British Aircraft Corporation and a foreign airline for Concorde airliners, although the ministry would not say which airline is involved.

The money would not necessarily all be spent, for the whole Concorde project will reach a make-or-break point soon, probably by the end of this year. By that time British Airways and Air France will have been operating commercial services into Washington for over six months and, if the legal objections are overcome, into New York as well.

Americo airlines and those from other parts of the world, notably South America, the Middle East and the Far East, will by that stage be in a position, on the evidence of the success or otherwise of the BA and AF Americo services, to decide whether or not to go supersonic. They could be helped to make up their minds by the fact that work at Filton and Toulouse was going ahead on a few further aircraft, and on improving the design.

If, in spite of these earnestness, the world airline industry refused to go supersonic, the whole Concorde project could then be scrapped—but nobody could suggest that it had gone by default.

Arthur Reed
Air Correspondent

Jobs in jeopardy

Hurn, for instance, following a Rumanian order and some sections for that aircraft are being fabricated at Filton.

BAC has a guided weapons factory at Bristol and there are a number of projects which could produce more jobs if export orders come up in expectations.

The military aircraft side could also become a luster. There is an Anglo-French requirement for 400 Jaguar strike aircraft, possibly with mopping up to export orders. The Multi-Role Combat Aircraft (MRCA) being developed jointly in Britain, Germany and Italy will call for the production of 800 aircraft.

But these expectations cannot yet be translated into hard and fast employment terms. The biggest question mark of all, hangs over the future of the aerospace industry where nationalization becomes a fact probably at the beginning of next year.

Lord Peswick, who is chairman designate of the British Aerospace Corporation, is still getting together his organizing committee to look at all the hand-over problems. Heavily commingling BAC, Hawker Siddeley Aviation, Hawker Siddeley Dynamics and Scottish Aviation is bound to raise questions of production rationalization. If, indeed, other factors being equal, a product-

tion unit to an area of higher unemployment be kept going at the expense of those in less affluent areas.

That might call into question a Weybridge, a Hurn or even part, if not all, of a Filton. It could easily be said at Bristol, for instance, that although the city has lately run into harder economic times it is still at an unemployment level around the national average.

Short-time working has largely disappeared from parts of the city, and tobacco processing, two of the city's substantial industries apart from aerospace. Some engineering companies are still affected.

Whether they can make a case for taking industry that would otherwise find its way to a development area is open to question. But as Mr Gervais Walker, chairman of Avon County Council, remarked yesterday, "What we would like to avoid is that the Government take no action on relaxing IDCs until the extra unemployment is actually upon us and when it will be too late to take the right remedial action."

Derek Harris

Volunteers

Filton is in fact accounting for half the present BAC rundown and local employment officials estimate that this is putting about 600 workless on their books. Most of the apparent discrepancy with BAC's forced redundancy figure for Filton could be accounted for by those who opted for voluntary terms.

There may be room for switching workers into other BAC production. A BAC 1-11 line has been resuscitated at

Scepticism in Toulouse

happened today by the spokesman of the Socialist CFDT branch at the Toulouse plant, and he did not spare the French or the British governments.

"There was no real decision," he said. "The workers feel a game of hide-and-seek is being played with them on both sides of the Channel. The question is who will now be the first to tell the truth about Concorde."

The spokesman gave a blunt warning to the unions intended to exercise the maximum pressure on the authorities they can muster to keep up jobs and working hours. Asked what initiatives could be taken, he argued Concorde provides the technological basis now for developing new types of aircraft which could find outlets in other markets as well as across the Atlantic.

Spokesman for the Christian and Communist affiliated aerospace workers' unions were united in emphasizing the determination to maintain existing employment levels, though they diverged in their estimates of how successful this pressure on the Government would prove. (The Communists were naturally the most pessimistic.)

It is overall terms yesterday's holding operation has avoided for M. Cavallé the abrupt dismissal of an estimated 2,300 Concorde employees at Tou-

louse. But, according to unofficial estimates, the Société Nationale Industrielle Aérospatiale can also count on a voluntary "rundown of effectives" as the phrase goes, amounting to about 2,000 departures a year from the state-run concern, thanks to the existing uncertainties.

It is these rundowns tactics which seem to explain a lot of the workers' present scepticism. Union leaders explain that their demand for a decision to build more Concorde, or equivalent aircraft, at Toulouse is simply because on the French side the basic components have already been made and assembly work on the production lines now only gives jobs for some 300 to 400.

Already some 400 have been transferred to building helicopters at Aérospatiale plants elsewhere.

The management of Aérospatiale announced yesterday the setting up of an employment committee to examine the general implications of a situation where "present job levels could not be maintained". Although workers' jobs on Concorde are not directly involved, the unions have summoned an emergency meeting for Saturday throughout the state aerospace concern.

Richard Wigg
in Paris

Business Diary: Nash's hot line • Court circulars

Ken Nash takes over one of the hotter backroom seats when he becomes finance director of Post Office Telecommunications Ltd. in June. In his new job Nash, who is 56, will be responsible for the entire accounting, budgeting, costing, and billing of an operation with a yearly turnover of about £2,000m and assets worth nearly £5,000m.

Telecommunications account for about 65 per cent of the Post Office's total income. Unlike the rest of the service it managed to make a pre-tax profit until 1974-75, when it suddenly chalked up a £190m deficit owing to a combination of inflation and sagging business use.

The financial year ends today and the Post Office as a whole is back in the black with a "modest profit". And, according to Sir Edward Ramesse, deputy chairman of the Post Office and director of the telecommunications division, his

side of the business will contribute about £30m, or 2 per cent of turnover. Nash's job will be to see that it stays in the black.

Nash has been with the Post Office, apart from wartime service, since he was 18 and has been involved with telecommunications finance for the past 20 years. He succeeds Alfred Levell, who is retiring.

Life line

The task of clearing up after the defunct Court Line companies seems to go on for ever. C. E. Heath Urquhart (Life & Pensions), managers of the group's pension fund, are still searching for 60 or so former employees, nearly two years after the collapse.

As contributors, the former employees are possibly entitled to refunds of between £100 and £500, but two sets of circulars to their last known addresses have not elicited any response.

In a final attempt to make contact, C. E. Heath Urquhart is trying advertising, backed by a last circular. The difficulty, it seems, is that most of the workers employed by Court Line Aviation and based at Luton may have gone abroad.

Dialling Europe

One of the great advantages of the Common Market, according to the pro-Europeans, is the scope for increased trade, especially for small and medium-sized companies. But where does the exporter start his search for suitable outlets?

Jacques Dalbin, president and director-general of Sodemec, hopes that from now on it will be in the pages of the *Common Market Yearbook* that he will find the answer.

Dalbin was in London yesterday for the British launch of his directory, which has been produced simultaneously in five languages and which lists over 95,000 importing and exporting companies in the EEC. The directory, apart from listing companies, gives statistical data for the EEC and has over 1,000 classified headings. Dalbin claims that the primary intention is to enable companies within national boundaries to obtain supplies and services throughout the EEC.

Marketing in Britain and the Irish Republic is being handled by a wholly owned subsidiary of Dalbin's Luxembourg based Sodemec Distribution of European Information (GB), of Bromley, Kent. And yesterday Dalbin announced that PEF had been given the blessing of two prominent "Europeans" who were joining its board.

They are Lord Halech, former chairman of the European Movement, and Sir Patrick Reilly, vice-president of the London Chamber of Commerce and former ambassador to France.

Getting together the directory details has involved some 500 interviewers contacting over 250,000 companies in the EEC during the past 18 months.

Although the venture is Dalbin's brainchild, it is heavily underwritten by several large European financial institutions, notably the Société Financière Européenne. So far some £5m has been sunk into the venture.

In true European spirit and

Court circulars

In the absence of a true European currency, the price is determined in Euros. For the uninitiated Dalbin will accept £36 in lieu of the 60 Euros price tag he has put on the first edition.

Stamp duty

It seems that one of the most bizarre manifestations of past fiscal policy is likely to benefit from the view that it is best to invest one's money in tangible collectors' items—in the interests of beating inflation, of course.

On April 27 Stanley Gibbons is holding another of its Paper Money auctions, and among the items coming under the hammer are German 20, 50 and 100 billion mark notes issued in February 1924, by Reichsbank. When issued the three notes would have been worth at most a total of £59, but are now expected to sell for £3,250.

Jack's aide

Todd Sullivan is few people's idea of a trade union leader. His history before arriving at Britain's largest union includes the management side of labour negotiations, the Commission on Industrial Relations, and the general secretaryship of a house union.

Now only 18 months after bringing the Union of Kodak Workers into the Transport and General Workers' Union he has been taken into Transport House by Jack Jones as national secretary for white collar members in the private sector.

WOOLWORTH

Extracts from the Chairman's Statement

- Increased sales, improved stores, wider ranges of merchandise all played their part for Woolworth in 1975.
- Sales increased by 24% and pre-tax profits by over 18%.
- Dividends totalling 3.95p per share are the same as in 1974.
- In 1975 three new stores were opened, four were rebuilt and a further ten were modernised.
- Increased profitability is necessary to continue to improve the financial rewards of our employees, to modernise and extend our stores, to maintain our competitive position for the benefit of customers and shareholders—including many pension funds.
- The future—We shall make every effort to improve our profit performance in 1976; the policy of change will continue.

SUMMARY OF RESULTS

| | Year Ended 31.1.76 £'000 | Year Ended 31.1.75 £'000 |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Total turnover | 607,658 | 489,727 |
| Profit before taxation | 36,252 | 30,649 |
| Earnings per stock unit | 4.50p | 3.72p |
| Dividend per stock unit | 3.95p | 3.95p |
| Stockholders' funds per stock unit | 51p | 51p |

F. W. WOOLWORTH AND CO., LIMITED
Woolworth House, 242/246, Marylebone Road, London, NW1 6JL.

FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

Stock markets

Panmure Gordon adds to gloom

Though a string of small buying orders lifted the number of bargains above 7,000 they were not enough to lift the general tone which remained nervous ahead of the result of the Labour leadership ballot.

Many of the leading industrial shares gave up early gains, though in most cases losses were confined to a couple of points. The FT index, which at the start the FT index soon lost ground and by the close was 2.2 lower, at 404.2, just a shade off the bottom.

An additional dampener was the premature late-afternoon edition of *Cyclical Indicators* which points to the uncertainty surrounding the future of both

In motors Roke-Roke lost 3p to 62p, after 60p, on news of a rigorous issue of more than £4m while persistent talk of a cash call by Lucas, in spite of three days of rising share prices. In result, had the shares three points off to 223p. The prospect of higher prices for glass helped Pilkington to go ahead 3p to 321p, but further reflection on the weak house led UDS on the day, a drop of 3p to 40p.

Speculation about a takeover by management from construction group Tarmac cemented the possible acquisition of Holland, Hanner & Cubitt building and civil engineering side of the firm. This division recovered strongly last year but marred by serious losses roads and motorway contracts. Tarmac gained 2p to 145p, refused to confirm or deny

the economy and the market. It says that on present trends the market will be unlikely to survive the end of the year and that by then the conflicting demands of the private and public sectors will have become too much for all markets.

The circular concludes that 1977 looks like being the year not to invest in Britain's stock markets.

The impression is that Allied Breweries, which has 25.7 per cent of Trust Houses Forte dating from its unsuccessful takeover bid four years ago has decided

After weakness in recent weeks, much of which was due to overdone speculation, operators returned to favour with Wheat, sheep 5p better to 131p, Kwik Save 2p ahead at 118p and Corns up 2p to 33p. Cornmeal, however, fell to 100p. W. Morris also met with a good deal of demand and rose no less than 6p to 163p, while Booker McConnell went ahead another 2p to 120p after the previous day's figures.

Other sugar shares also provided features with Tate & Lyle firming 2p to 273p and Manbre up thirteen four points better at 134p.

Hotels fell from 14p to 12p compared with a suspicious price of 533p. Total, where search is on for a new executive, gave up a penny 39p and in after-hours it was 39p and 38p. The latter was almost bailed its price to rumours of difficulties.

Oils shares went notably 8p by 2p to 610p, the gold price was 200p and the call for military intervention in desia did nothing for sons and there were some b losses among the "hedgers" and the "speculators" who were also very down.

[illegible]

Medium-rated stocks managed a similarly good advance. Much of the buying appeared to stem from institutions approaching the end of their Non-Grading in

Latest dividends

| Company (and par values) | Ord div | Year ago | Pay date | Year's total | Yr |
|-----------------------------|------------|-------------|-------------|-----------------|----|
| American Trust (25¢) Fio | 0.93 | 0.93 | 12/5 | 1.35 | 1 |
| BBA Group (25¢) Fin | 1.72 | 1.63 | — | 2.39 | 2 |

| Company | 1995 | 1996 | 1997 | 1998 | 1999 |
|----------------------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Boeing (25p) | 0.25 | 0.31 | 19.5 | 1 | 1 |
| Kroger (25p) | 1.38 | 2.08 | 11.5 | 1 | 1 |
| Boys & Girls (25p) | 1.0 | 4.6 | 20* | 1 | 1 |
| Perry Lane (10p) | 1.5 | N/A | 1.5 | N/A | 1 |
| Lawrence (25p) | N/A | 1.26 | 1 | 2 | 1 |
| Fry Holdings (25p) | 1.67 | 2.45 | 26.5 | 2.9 | 3 |
| Smith & Nephew (10p) | 1.31 | 1.22 | 18.5 | 1.96 | 1 |
| Trafford Park (25p) | 1.4 | 1.4 | 20.5 | 2.96 | 2 |

Dividends to this table are shown net of tax in pence per share

BBA still confident

after a fine 1975

By Anthony Rowley

BBA Group, the Yorkshire-based manufacturer of friction materials and industrial textiles,

industrial side continued strong, and loss-making units which had depressed the first half performance were eliminated.

A strong feature last year

1976 profits

By Adrienne Gleason

With the household emerging from a trough in domestic

The group proposes a final dividend of 17.2p net an ordinary share, making a total of 17.2p.

BBA, which was reporting profits just 12 per cent up for the year of 2.59p or fractionally under 4p gross. This represents the maximum increase payable. A one for three scrip is also proposed.

For 1974, BBA says it expects profits to rise 20 per cent to £37.6m.

Earnings a share rose by 73 per cent to 8.58p—covering the net dividend more than three times.

BBA says that group sales in

to £2.71m) at the ball way
last year, says that the
second half benefited from im-
proved trading conditions in the
world automotive industry. The
first two months of 1976
were 18 per cent up on 1975,
and that profits this year "are
not likely to be less than those
of 1975."

key 5 per cent in East Sussex

Aurora Holdings has won its share for voting control of East Sussex Engineering. Accept-

...reached break-even, and since then have been cut back again, to a build-up during 1974.

16 per cent of the shareholdings, just over 604,000 shares. Aurora's offer has now become unconditional, and the deal will be extended until April 13.

East Sussex's directors, led by the chairman and managing director, have agreed to the takeover, but they do not consider that the present levels of sales and profits reflect the true value of the company. The directors' report, which was issued last week, says that the group's programme of financial restructuring has been completed—the board has been able to recommend a maximum permitted increase in the dividend, to 7.69p per share.

Thus, the company has

trepreneur, Mr G. J. Suckling, was being a bitter opponent of the takeover. The accounts reveal that stock moved faster last year than in the 12 months prior to the stock figure at January 31 was £36.14m, related to sales (net of VAT) of £573.4m.

Silent bloc

A bid threat behind the row

Following a distinctly iconoclastic public skirmish last week the boards of BTR and Silentbuck have retired to their respective camps, leaving observers largely nonplussed as to what the feud is all about.

In the Silentbuck camp, chairman

Mr Christopher Whitehorn, is still considering his position, following his reelection, which apparently owed more to chance than design.

While at BTR, managing Mr Owen Greene, is awaiting for the dust to settle "the dust storm."

Mr Whitehorn claims that this was a purely professional measure and that the existing articles dating back forty years were

argued with Mr Whitehorn's group have no victory of principle.

Their case at the annual meeting came in for surprise support from dissident Sir Leslie director, Mr Peter Higgins, claimed that adoption of

The row has to be seen against the long history of animosity between the two boards dating back to 1971, when the BTR oow holds a 27 per cent stake.

BTR and Mr Greene, however, felt the new articles proposed were distinctly cut of keeping with modern thinking in that they moved the responsibilities for appointment and removal of directors further

New articles would almost tawly lead to his dismissal.

What role Mr Higgins adopt in the next few months remains to be seen, while it might be expected or feared to reiterate other points raised by his director on the Silenabloc board in view of their first

Jenteloc, the industrial rubber
manufacturers, successfully
ended off a bid from the much
larger and acquisition-minded
BTR general rubber group.

10. The following table shows the number of people who attended the concert in each age group.

FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

Scrip and revaluation from Acrow Group

The board of Acrow Group proposes a one-for-one scrip issue of the "A" shares. This will increase the group's unissued capital from £9.35m to £20m. A revaluation of group properties is also planned. They were in the last accounts at £10.5m.

The largest-ever capital expenditure programme is under way, which will modernize cranes, buy plant, mechanical and electrical equipment and transport. It will cost £5m, financed from internal resources.

Mr Ian Green is joining the board, from Rockwell International, as group deputy managing director.

Luxembourg boost

0 Percy Lane

Thanks to its Luxembourg operation the Percy Lane Group aluminium window makers is boosted in 1975. The company's sales from £11,000 to £14,500 (sales of £8.6m, against £5.9m). The United Kingdom companies made a loss of £42,000, compared with a profit of £28,000, but the Luxembourg subsidiary at a profit of £156,000, to a profit of £356,000.

Dividend payments are summed at 1.5p—the last year was in 1973. The last year that the financial position was strong, with substantial and unused borrowing funds.

American Bk soars

At pre-tax level, profits of American Bank (London) for the year to 31 March 1975 have risen from £300,000 to £1.4m, and the profit is 140 per cent up on £96,000. In line with most other major banks the group did seek to increase its assets and total assets are £7.8m, against £135.02m.

Inella optimism

The healthy cash position, rising buoyant demand for household textiles and further savings from the merger with Vantona, sell to work ought are the main points in annual report from Inella. The first three months of the current year has

seen a good level of activity and chairman Mr James Spooner expects a "significant increase in profits" in the year to the end of November, 1976.

New bid talks lift Wm Reed

Talk of a counter bid for the Leeds-based man-made fibres group William Reed pushed the shares up 10p to 42½p. Birmingham & Midlands Counties Trust—which now holds nearly 42 per cent of the equity—made an offer on Monday of 33p a share cash for the rest.

The Reed board says that the offer does not "adequately reflect group prospects" and that "active discussions" are under way which could lead to an alternative bid for the company.

Meanwhile, shareholders are advised to take no action. Birmingham & Midlands—a subsidiary of Dowgate & Co—has bought a further 10,000 shares this week.

Shares reshuffle at E. Chalmers

The board of E. Chalmers, the Glasgow-based metals group, is changing to reflect the sale of a major share block. Downhouse Holdings has bought a further 414,000 shares, taking its stake to 396,000 (19.1 per cent).

The deal was arranged by merchant MacNeill Pearson, which has also placed a further 11 per cent. This follows the decision of Ronde Klip of Holland to sell its 24.3 per cent holding—acquired in December.

Mr A. McFadden and Mr W. Peacock of Downhouse have joined the Chalmers board. Mr McFadden will replace Mr Howard—a Ronde Klip appointee—as chairman.

Ferro Metal setback

Over the 15 months to December 31, pre-tax profits of Ferro Metal & Chemical Corporation reached £356,500, against £782,000 for the year to September.

Metal Box Malaysia

Singapore, March 30.—Metal Box of Malaysia will submit its reconstruction into separate Malaysian and Singapore units to shareholders on April 28. The company has indicated to the Malaysian authorities its willingness, subject to shareholders' approval, to make available to approved

member 30 on turnover of £18.8m, against £11.8m. Earnings a share came out at 7.8p, against 20p, and shareholders will receive a dividend of 7.08p gross compared with 5.48p. The trading shows an improvement over 1975.

Savoy back in profit for full year

The Savoy Hotels Group, which takes in Claridge's and the Connaught as well as the Savoy itself, has returned to profits after its disappointing first-half performance.

The group made a profit before tax of £52,000 for 1975 as a whole, compared with a loss of £58,000 in 1974. At the halfway stage the directors reported a pre-tax deficit of £359,000.

This year, much will depend on greater economic confidence in Britain and on there being no further decline in the number of American visitors to London.

Coltens Group

The second half of 1975 saw an all-round improvement at Coltens Group, its first pre-tax profits at £596,000, against £401,000 on a turnover of £6.7m, against £5.6m. The dividend rises from 2.07p gross to 2.28p.

Artagen quibble

Artagen Properties, the industrial and commercial development group, has crossed swords with its auditors over the treatment of tax relief on overseas developments.

In the 1975 accounts Price Waterhouse "does not concur in the company's practice of accounting for tax relief relating to capitalised holding costs overseas." The company, however, considers that the relief should be deducted from the cost of properties.

Treating the relief as the auditors wished would have reduced the 1975 profit from this year's pre-tax profits.

The accounts also show a £12.7m write down in the value

of properties to £58.7m, which, with development properties, gives the overall portfolio a value of £64.3m, and a net asset a share figure of 78½p. Yesterday Artagen's shares closed at 68p.

No interim by Lawtex

On turnover up from £2.9m to £3m, Lawtex, the clothing and umbrellas group, saw its pre-tax profits for the six months to end-December fall from £97,000 to £13,000 and is not declaring a dividend against 1.94p gross. The shares fall 7p to 23p on the news.

The general depression in the textile and clothing industry led to the poor result, and over-production in the industry squeezed margins. Demand is now picking up.

Barlow Rand—Northern Lime

The results of the meeting to consider the scheme of arrangement between Northern Lime and the fully paid members of Northern Lime other than Barlow, its subsidiaries and their respective nominees ("scheme members") have been issued.

On March 17, 1976, at the meeting of scheme members of Northern Lime convened in terms of an Order of the Supreme Court of South Africa (Witwatersrand Local Division) to consider the scheme, 68 members present in person or represented by proxy holding 835,154 fully paid ordinary shares voted in favour of the scheme.

All conditions relating to the scheme have now been fulfilled and the scheme becomes effective March 29.

Hongkong Land

Hongkong Land's profits for 1975 were £18.3m—up from £17.6m for 1974. The company declared dividends for the year of 3.07p against 2.96p. The directors said that the nature of the group's main business involved long-term property investment, and last year progress was made on several new developments which would ensure future growth potential.

Briefly

BNF BANK TO RAISE DIVIDEND

Berliner Handels und Finanz Bank plans to increase its 1975 dividend to DM10 per DM50 share from DM8 for 1974. Dividend-entitled capital amounts to a nominal DM87.4m. The bank plans to use DM6m of 1975 profit to increase reserves.

AE AND CI OPTIMISTIC

A further increase in AE and CI profits expected for the current year, Mr E. E. Oppenheimer, the chairman, states. Prospects for 1976, he said, must be considered against background of the anti-inflation manifesto.

AMERICAN TRUST

Final 0.93p a share net or 1.43p gross making 1.33p net again or 2.07p gross.

ANGLO ARGENTINE TRAM

In accordance with scheme of arrangement in 1974 a further payment will be made to first debenture stockholders on July 1 of 4½ per cent of which 4 per cent will bear tax.

AUSTRALIAN COMMONWEALTH

Resolution to wind up company was passed and Mr C. Morris of Messrs Touche Ross appointed liquidator.

JEVONS COOPER

Company is again to start paying dividends for year to October 31. It plans an interim of 12½ per cent on October 1 and a 17 per cent final on April 1, 1977. The Treasury has agreed.

SEARE STAKE

Delyn says that MY Dart has raised its holding in company and now holds 10.02 per cent of shares.

BURNS-ANDERSON

Interim 0.35p or 0.54p gross (0.48p gross) for half year to December 31, pre-tax profit £202,194 (£224,800). Turnover £5.3m (£5.35m).

Hse of Sears 'ginger'

A group of shareholders controlling over 25 per cent of the House of Sears (Holdings) has requested an extraordinary general meeting for April 20 to vote on the appointment of Mr Peter Atterbury and Mrs Irene Atterbury as directors.

Allen Harvey & Ross

Mr M. Allsopp, chairman of Allen Harvey & Ross, the London discount house, says that the group played an increasing role in expanding the market for Treasury Bills. The downward course of interest rates has produced capital profits to compensate for the lack of running profits.

By sticking with the Bond Market, the group was in a position to profit from the recovery from the beginning.

EDF-PARRY
Dividend 12 per cent subject to Indian tax. Immediate payment of 4 per cent on May 7 and deferred payment of 8 per cent of which half payable July 6 and the rest on July 6, 1977, with interest at 8 per cent a year. Pre-tax profit for period to December 31 £1.1m.

BERRY TRUST

No interim but board expects that div of 2.5 per cent will be paid next December year to August 31 (same). Half year's pre-tax profit £17,484 (£116,348). Net asset value 57.25p (47p) assuming loan stock conversion.

TRAFFORD PARK ESTATES

Interim 1.4p (same) net or 2.16p gross. For half year to December 31 last pre-tax profit £271,511 (£288,766).

TRIPLEVEST

Final 1.645p net or 2.5p gross making 2.38p net or 5.45p gross (£5.56p). For year to February 28, 1976, net profit £415,500. Co issued a capital share 22½p (12½p).

FIFCO HOLDINGS

Interim 0.65p net equal to 1.066p (0.97p gross). For half year to October 31 last pre-tax profit £401,500 (£415,500). Co issued a capital share 22½p (12½p).

BELL CANADA

Bell Canada plans to issue \$200m of 8.75 per cent debentures in the United States at an offer price of 95.25 per cent. Proceeds will be used mainly to expand and improve the company's telecommunications system.

MITSUBISHI CHEM INDUSTRIES

Interim profit 4.28p yen for year to January 31 (¥5,511 yen). Gross sales, ¥58,803m (¥53,791m). Dividend 5 yen a share (same).

INVERESK GROUP

Mr J. S. Corrigan, chairman, reports that customers' stocks have now been substantially reduced and demand for packaging and converted products is showing improvement. A sustained increase in general demand was noticed during first half this year.

ICI apart, IMI is 94pc taken

ICI has taken up its allotment of 29m shares under the recent rights issue by Imperial Chemical Industries and other shareholders took up 16.2m shares (94 per cent) of the 17.2m shares provisionally allotted to them. The balance of 1m shares has been sold through the market in the usual way.

GLC and L'pool borrow in yearlings

With the yearling interest rate still at 10½ per cent, the Greater London Council and City of Liverpool are each borrowing £2.5m this week. Other major borrowers are Cardiff (£2m) and Vale of White Horse (£750,000). An 18-month bond at 10½ per cent for Cheltenham will raise £500,000.

Cockerill borrowing

Liège, March 25.—SA Cockerill-Ougree-Providence et Espar has raised \$500,000.

Eurobond prices (midday indicators)

| STRAIGHTS | Bid | Offer | STRAIGHTS | Bid | Offer |
|----------------|--------|--------|------------------|--------|--------|
| Amst 100, 1981 | 100.00 | 100.00 | London 100, 1981 | 100.00 | 100.00 |
| Amst 100, 1982 | 100.00 | 100.00 | London 100, 1982 | 100.00 | 100.00 |
| Amst 100, 1983 | 100.00 | 100.00 | London 100, 1983 | 100.00 | 100.00 |
| Amst 100, 1984 | 100.00 | 100.00 | London 100, 1984 | 100.00 | 100.00 |
| Amst 100, 1985 | 100.00 | 100.00 | London 100, 1985 | 100.00 | 100.00 |
| Amst 100, 1986 | 100.00 | 100.00 | London 100, 1986 | 100.00 | 100.00 |
| Amst 100, 1987 | 100.00 | 100.00 | London 100, 1987 | 100.00 | 100.00 |
| Amst 100, 1988 | 100.00 | 100.00 | London 100, 1988 | 100.00 | 100.00 |
| Amst 100, 1989 | 100.00 | 100.00 | London 100, 1989 | 100.00 | 100.00 |
| Amst 100, 1990 | 100.00 | 100.00 | London 100, 1990 | 100.00 | 100.00 |
| Amst 100, 1991 | 100.00 | 100.00 | London 100, 1991 | 100.00 | 100.00 |
| Amst 100, 1992 | 100.00 | 100.00 | London 100, 1992 | 100.00 | 100.00 |
| Amst 100, 1993 | 100.00 | 100.00 | London 100, 1993 | 100.00 | 100.00 |
| Amst 100, 1994 | 100.00 | 100.00 | London 100, 1994 | 100.00 | 100.00 |
| Amst 100, 1995 | 100.00 | 100.00 | London 100, 1995 | 100.00 | 100.00 |
| Amst 100, 1996 | 100.00 | 100.00 | London 100, 1996 | 100.00 | 100.00 |
| Amst 100, 1997 | 100.00 | 100.00 | London 100, 1997 | 100.00 | 100.00 |
| Amst 100, 1998 | 100.00 | 100.00 | London 100, 1998 | 100.00 | 100.00 |
| Amst 100, 1999 | 100.00 | 100.00 | London 100, 1999 | 100.00 | 100.00 |
| Amst 100, 2000 | 100.00 | 100.00 | London 100, 2000 | 100.00 | 100.00 |

THE UNITED STATES DEBENTURE CORPORATION LIMITED

Year Ended 31st January, 1976.

Extracts from the Directors' Report.

During our financial year ended 31st January, 1976 it became apparent that America was leading the Western economies out of the world trade recession. American economic indicators improved and interest rates there showed a marked abatement together with a decrease in the inflation rate. In turn, these better American conditions are working through to other free world economies, including that of the United Kingdom.

As a result, we are able to report that, in contrast to the previous year, stock markets both in America and in the United Kingdom, our two principal areas of investment, demonstrated a substantial recovery from their previous depressed levels.

In the United Kingdom, the Financial Times All-Share Index advanced strongly by 89.0 per cent, whilst in America, the Dow Jones Industrial Index gained 38.6 per cent.

The beneficial effect of these rises caused the assets attributable to our Ordinary stockholders to grow by 64.4 per cent. At the end of the year, 64.5 per cent of our total assets were represented by United Kingdom investments and 42.5 per cent by North American shareholdings. These percentages compare with the respective figures for the previous year of 50.1 per cent and 47.2 per cent. These percentage changes are largely due to the stronger performance of the United Kingdom stock market relative to those of North America.

Revenue before tax grew by 8 per cent, but it was of course impossible, through any conventional investment medium, to show a real return on assets to match the appalling rate of U.K. inflation which, as measured by the Retail Price Index, grew by 23.4 per cent during the year. However, towards the end of the year, there was definite evidence that this rate of inflation was slowing down. Despite the eroding effects of inflation, particularly on the income from our U.K. investments, and despite the continuance of dividend restraint, we are pleased to recommend that the net dividend be increased by 9.9 per cent, and we estimate that this distribution should be adequately covered by the income of the current year ending 31st January, 1977. This dividend increase has proved possible because of our constant attention to adequate investment yield and also to the overseas content of our portfolio which is free from any conventional investment medium, to show a real return on assets to match the appalling rate of U.K. inflation which, as measured by the Retail Price Index, grew by 23.4 per cent during the year. However, towards the end of the year, there was definite evidence that this rate of inflation was slowing down. Despite the eroding effects of inflation, particularly on the income from our U.K. investments, and despite the continuance of dividend restraint, we are pleased to recommend that the net dividend be increased by 9.9 per cent, and we estimate that this distribution should be adequately covered by the income of the current year ending 31st January, 1977. 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Bank Base Rates

| | |
|-------------------|--------|
| Barclays Bank | 9 1/2 |
| First London Sec | 9 1/2 |
| C. Hoare & Co. | 9 1/2 |
| Lloyds Bank | 9 1/2 |
| Midland Bank | 9 1/2 |
| Nat Westminster | 9 1/2 |
| Rosminster ACC's | 9 1/2 |
| Shenley Trust | 11 1/2 |
| Williams & Glyn's | 9 1/2 |

* 7-day deposits on sums of £10,000 and under, 5% up to £25,000, 6% over £25,000.

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£25 p.a.
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01-404 5011 01-405 4442
British Monomarks (established 1925)

M. J. H. NIGHTINGALE & CO LIMITED

62-63 Threadneedle Street, London EC2R 8HP Tel: 01-638 8651

| 1974 To | 1975 To | Company | Price | Chg | Div | Yld | P/E |
|---------|---------|--------------------|-------|-----|------|------|------|
| 46 | 25 | Armstrong & Rhodes | 36 | +2 | 3.0 | 8.3 | 9.5 |
| 106 | 94 | Deborah Services | 107 | - | 7.3 | 7.1 | 5.6 |
| 150 | 115 | Henry Sykes | 147 | +2 | 4.9 | 3.4 | 9.8 |
| 36 | 18 | Twinlock Ord | 21 | -1 | 0.9 | 4.4 | 5.2 |
| 67 | 45 | Twinlock 12's ULS | 67 | - | 12.0 | 17.9 | - |
| 63 | 48 | Unilock Holdings | 63 | +2 | 4.5 | 7.1 | 12.2 |

Wankie Colliery Company Limited

(Incorporated in Rhodesia)

NOTICE TO SHAREHOLDERS

COAL PRICE AGREEMENT

The Discussions with Government on a new form of agreement to replace the existing agreement which is to expire in 1978, have reached finality and the heads of an agreement have been accepted in principle by Government and your Board. The new agreement will apply to both coal and coke in Rhodesia from the 1st September, 1975.

The Government's offer is based on the concept that the Company should be allowed a return of 12 1/2 per cent on the capital employed in its business. For purposes of the new agreement capital employed is defined as the net book value of the fixed assets at the beginning of the financial year in question plus the value of stores and the value of coke stocks at that date.

In the current year, however, the allowable profit on Rhodesian sales will be restricted to a maximum of \$2,500,000. Should the profits exceed this amount any excess will be set aside to cushion prices in the following year. The pre-tax profit entitlement on Rhodesian sales will be increased to 10 per cent of capital employed in 1976-77. Thereafter the full entitlement of 12 1/2 per cent will apply. It has been agreed that when the Company has to pay income tax on profits included in the definition of a fair return, the return will be increased by the amount of income tax paid to a maximum of 15 per cent to take some account of the tax payable.

Prices of coal and coke will remain unchanged until the next pricing review towards the end of the year. Any profits which the Company may make from the sale of its products outside Rhodesia are distinguished from and treated differently to profits on its Rhodesian sales.

The company will be entitled to all profits which arise from exports until 31st August, 1977. From 1st September, 1977 onwards there will be a restriction on retained profits on exports, as a result of which the Company will be entitled to retain a maximum profit of 5 per cent on the capital employed as defined. Any excess earned will be used to reduce local coal and coke prices to the Company and is not taken into account to determining the profit entitlement.

In the current circumstances it is expected that the arrangement will allow sufficient profit for the retention of funds for the anticipated capital expenditure and an acceptable distribution to shareholders.

DIVIDEND No. 103

The Directors today declared an interim dividend No. 103 in respect of the year ending 31st August, 1976 of 2 1/2 cents per share, payable to shareholders registered in the books of the Company at the close of business on 15th April, 1976. Dividend warrants will be posted on or about 17th May, 1976. The transfer registers in Rhodesia, the United Kingdom and South Africa will be closed from 16th to 23rd April, 1976 inclusive.

Rhodesian non-resident shareholders tax at the rate of 15 per cent will be deducted from the dividend where applicable.

This dividend compares with the interim payment of 3 cents which was paid the previous year on the issued capital of 12,666,744 shares then in issue and is equivalent to 1.5 cents on the present issued share capital. Estimated results for the half year ended 29th February, 1976, with comparative figures for the year ended 31st August, 1975 are as follows:

| | Half year ended 29th February, 1976 | Year ended 31st August, 1975 |
|----------------|-------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| SALES (tonnes) | | |
| Coal | 1,434,457 | 2,493,108 |
| Coke | 86,938 | 290,076 |

UNAUDITED FINANCIAL RESULTS

| | 1976 | 1975 |
|---|-----------|-----------|
| Trading profit from coal, coke and by-products and sundry revenue | 1,917,000 | 2,614,000 |
| Interest and dividends receivable less debenture interest and other charges | 120,000 | 136,000 |
| Profit | 2,037,000 | 2,750,000 |
| Deferred taxation | 364,000 | 673,000 |
| Profit after Taxation | 1,473,000 | 2,077,000 |
| Interim dividend (2 1/2 cents per share) | 633,000 | 380,000 |

Under the new coal price agreement the profits on Rhodesian sales for this year will be restricted to a maximum of \$2,500,000. The profits for the six months are below one half of this figure.

The dividend is declared in the currency of Rhodesia. Payments from South Africa will be made in the South African equivalent of the Rhodesian value at the rate of exchange ruling at the close of business on 7th May, 1976.

In terms of exchange control regulations, dividends due to members who are residents in the United Kingdom, Zambia or Tanzania, must be paid into a blocked account in the shareholder's name with a registered commercial bank in Rhodesia.

Arrangements are being made for members normally paid from the United Kingdom and who are not resident in the United Kingdom or Zambia to be paid their dividend from Rhodesia.

MARKET REPORTS

Commodities

COPPER was steady. Aluminium—LME cash price, 210.50p; three months, 212.50p; six months, 214.50p; 12 months, 216.50p. Tin—LME cash price, 210.50p; three months, 212.50p; six months, 214.50p; 12 months, 216.50p. Lead—LME cash price, 210.50p; three months, 212.50p; six months, 214.50p; 12 months, 216.50p. Zinc—LME cash price, 210.50p; three months, 212.50p; six months, 214.50p; 12 months, 216.50p. Nickel—LME cash price, 210.50p; three months, 212.50p; six months, 214.50p; 12 months, 216.50p. Silver—LME cash price, 210.50p; three months, 212.50p; six months, 214.50p; 12 months, 216.50p. Gold—LME cash price, 210.50p; three months, 212.50p; six months, 214.50p; 12 months, 216.50p.

Foreign Exchange

The dollar lost ground in several European financial centres yesterday and the pound sterling fell in spot trading. Sterling shared the dollar's retreat, with the Bank of England's depreciation rate rising to a record 34.1 per cent for the closing level of 33.9 per cent overnight.

Sterling closed at \$1.9180 against the dollar, to show a net fall of 10 points. Heavier losses were suffered by the pound against European currencies. Sterling dropped to a day's dollar low of \$1.9120, before its subsequent recovery amid signs of a month-end sale of sterling on account of a Mid-East oil exporting country acted as an early major depressant.

In Europe, the dollar fell to 2.5395/5405 marks from 2.5510, overnight, and to 4.6655/5705 French francs from 4.6900, 30 points.

Some banks linked the dollar's losses with modest speculative covering in marks and other currencies ahead of this week's EC Summit in Luxembourg. In Bonn, government sources said West Germany opposed French attempts to put economic aid to the summit at the centre of the Summit.

Forward Levels

| Month | Rate |
|-----------|--------|
| 1 month | 1.9180 |
| 3 months | 1.9180 |
| 6 months | 1.9180 |
| 12 months | 1.9180 |

Gold

Gold closed at \$125.00 (at 10:00 a.m.).

Spot Position of Sterling

| Market | Rate |
|-----------------|--------|
| New York | 1.9180 |
| London | 1.9180 |
| Frankfurt | 1.9180 |
| Paris | 1.9180 |
| Brussels | 1.9180 |
| Amsterdam | 1.9180 |
| Geneva | 1.9180 |
| Zurich | 1.9180 |
| Basel | 1.9180 |
| Lucerne | 1.9180 |
| Sion | 1.9180 |
| Vevey | 1.9180 |
| Yverdon | 1.9180 |
| Lausanne | 1.9180 |
| Neuchâtel | 1.9180 |
| Montreux | 1.9180 |
| Evian-les-Bains | 1.9180 |
| St. Moritz | 1.9180 |
| Corvatsch | 1.9180 |
| Flims | 1.9180 |
| St. Moritz | 1.9180 |
| Corvatsch | 1.9180 |
| Flims | 1.9180 |

Discount market

Day-to-day credit was to fall supply to the discount market. The Bank of England eventually intervened to mop up Treasury bills on a large scale directly to the houses.

The Bank of England's intervention suggested the banks would be carrying full balances over to Wednesday. A large excess of Government disturbances over revenue transfers to the Exchequer and balances brought forward from Monday comfortably offset adverse factors.

Secured loans started at about 3 per cent, but were soon coming at 7 1/2 per cent and then steadily down to about 7 1/4 per cent. The close was very easy at between 6 and 6 1/2 per cent for the balances after the authorities' programme of mopping up.

Money Market Rates

| Rate | Rate |
|-----------|--------|
| 3 months | 1.9180 |
| 6 months | 1.9180 |
| 12 months | 1.9180 |

Recent Issues

| Issue | Rate |
|-----------|--------|
| 1 month | 1.9180 |
| 3 months | 1.9180 |
| 6 months | 1.9180 |
| 12 months | 1.9180 |

Wall Street

New York, March 30.—Prices were moderately lower over a fairly wide area on the New York stock exchange. However, trading was relatively slow on the slide.

The Dow Jones industrial average was off 5.27 to 922.13. About 930 issues declined compared with about 480 advanced. 17,930,000 shares compared with 16,100,000 on Monday.

Analysts said that with volume quite low the market could not summon enough interest for an attempt to advance.

Brisk trading in gold

Chicago, March 30.—Gold futures prices were off 1.50 to 1.51. Prices of gold futures were off 1.50 to 1.51. Prices of gold futures were off 1.50 to 1.51.

The Wall Street and Canadian stock prices given in the table relate to Monday's close.

Later publication is caused by the change in British Summer Time. This will continue until Eastern Daylight Time begins in the United States.

Authorized Units, Insurance & Offshore Funds

1794 To 1975 To

Authorized Unit Trusts

1794 To 1975 To

Insurance Bonds and Funds

1794 To 1975 To

Offshore and International Funds

1794 To 1975 To

1794 To 1975 To

1794 To 1975 To

1794 To 1975 To

1794 To 1975 To

1794 To 1975 To

1794 To 1975 To

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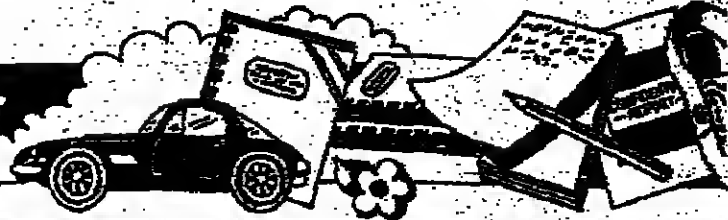
1794 To 1975 To

1794 To 1975 To

1794 To 1975 To



La creme de la creme



All recruitment advertisements on this page are open to both male and female applicants.

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Slough... neg. c. £3,000

A top-of-the-line secretarial position at a very well known international company. The MD is a very experienced and successful manager. He is looking for a highly motivated and capable person to take on the role of his personal secretary. The position is ideal for someone who is confident, organized, and able to handle a high level of responsibility. The salary is negotiable, around £3,000 per annum.

Technically, you will have to be an excellent typist, able to handle a high volume of work, and able to manage a small team. You will also be responsible for the MD's diary and travel arrangements. The position is ideal for someone who is confident, organized, and able to handle a high level of responsibility. The salary is negotiable, around £3,000 per annum.

If you know you can do all this and more, please write or phone for an application form to: Mr. B. C. C. Compton, Personnel Officer, Room and House Company, Chesterfield House, Barter Street, W.C.1. or telephone 01-586 8344.

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SECRETARY

to Divisional Managing Director

We're looking for a Secretary/P.A. who can offer us more than excellent shorthand and typing skills. Our Divisional Director needs a good organizer who can work independently and occasionally under pressure to make an effective contribution to the smooth running of his operations.

This means that responsibilities will include both the administrative and secretarial functions: processing management information, involvement with varied activities, and dealing with all levels of staff and management.

If you're a fully experienced Secretary looking for job satisfaction and involvement, with a good command of written English, you would like to be near from you. We offer an attractive salary and excellent working conditions, including a weeks holiday, free life assurance, contributory pension scheme and subsidized canteen facilities. Please write giving full details of career to date, or telephone for an application form to:

Mrs. A. Gordon, Personnel Officer, ALFA-LAVAL COMPANY LIMITED, Great West Road, Brentford, Middlesex TW8 9ET. Tel: 01-860 1221.

OVERSEAS LIAISON ADMIN. ASSISTANT

A variety of duties dealing with Australasian visitors. You will liaise with overseas Travel Agents and people from Australasia, visiting this country on a working holiday. Arranging accommodation and employment. You will probably be about 25, have good typing skills, like people, be self motivated and certainly have a sense of humour.

We pay well. Please ring Jessica Higgins on 734 0137. Alfred Marks Bureau, 151 Regent Street, W.1.



German Bank requires an efficient, self-reliant

SECRETARY

for London Branch

Bilingual, English mother tongue, sound knowledge of German, English shorthand typing, excellent secretarial skills. Top salary, excellent company benefits and working conditions. Interview will be held in London. Full personal details should be sent to Box 0125 P, The Times.

IS THIS YOUR CHOICE?

These are the facts for you to consider:— The Company is rapidly expanding with a growing list of Stockbrokers. Now independent. Has inherited a philosophy which gives everyone the chance to use ability to the full. Young, growing, still evolving. It provides clients with a specialised information service. The atmosphere—challenging but informal. The environment—based in the City, very pleasant, but shortage of space is a temporary problem. The people—extremely nice and mostly young. The job—Secretary to the recently appointed Company Secretary and the Establishment Officer (this will not entail any conflict of priorities). The requirements—professionalism, several years' sound experience, the ability to take a part in setting up systems from scratch, good shorthand, excellent typing, discretion, tolerance and adaptability, for the progress ahead. The salary—£2,500-£3,000 with fringe benefits. Suggested age—mid-20s and above. For an initial discussion and appointment for interview, please telephone Mrs. Cullinham 273 9000, any time between 8.30 a.m. and 5.00 p.m. Wednesday and 8.30 a.m.-5.00 p.m. Thursday. Office hours thereafter.

TRANSLATOR

with English mother-tongue required for Paris Stockbrokers in their Research Department. Experience in translating financial material preferred.

Salary negotiable. Around Fr35,000. Please phone: 236 2281 for further details.



Wellcome

A talent for Public Relations?

Fluent French, Spanish or German?

The Wellcome Foundation Limited is a major British-owned pharmaceutical company with sales turnover exceeding £213m. From our main manufacturing site at Dartford, Kent, 80% of production goes abroad. To ensure that proper arrangements are made for the reception of major overseas and U.K. customers, we are creating a new post of Visits Officer. A part of the job will involve organising visits to the Dartford site for senior businessmen and government officials, from both the U.K. and overseas. The arrangement of entertainment and sight-seeing in London for overseas visitors and their wives may also be needed. Liaising with personnel and public relations, the successful candidate will organise an intelligence service to help identify those customers whose visits will be most advantageous to them and to the company, and ensure that display and other information material is produced and available at Dartford.

Candidates, possibly but not essentially graduates, must have the confidence and style to act as ambassador for a major company. Ability to speak well and communicate easily is essential, as is fluency in French, Spanish and/or German. Generous benefits include an attractive salary, assistance with relocation expenses where appropriate, four weeks' holiday and excellent pension scheme.

For an application form, please write to or telephone: Personnel Manager, The Wellcome Foundation Ltd., Temple Hill, Dartford, Kent OX1 5AH. Tel: Dartford 23458.



SECRETARY TO ADMINISTRATIVE MANAGER

A competent and experienced secretary, aged preferably 27 to 35, is required for the Administrative Manager. The successful applicant will have accurate shorthand typing with reasonable speed, and will have the good tact and personality to deal with people at all levels. This is a busy post with a good deal of involvement and responsibility. Some knowledge of the workings of a personnel department in a Solicitors Office would be an advantage. We offer a salary of c. £2,500 per annum, 4 weeks holiday and a number of fringe benefits.

Call Mr. Bradley on 01-405 3613.

PERSONAL SECRETARY

The Central Trustee Savings Bank Limited

invites applications for the above secretarial position.

Candidates should be between 21 and 35 years of age, and a competent shorthand typist, with a proven record of secretarial experience. A pleasant personality is essential together with the ability to communicate with staff at all levels. Initiative, self-motivation and diplomacy are other important attributes required of applicants.

Hours of work are 9 a.m.-5 p.m., and benefits will include Lunchtime Vouchers, season ticket loans, non-contributory pension scheme, a weeks holiday. Salary £2,528 to £2,897 (inclusive of London weighting). Application forms from T. H. Cullinham, Telephone 01-283 8533

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Unlimited Career prospects await you as a Counsellor with our International Personnel Service operating in 8 countries. You would be part of a professional and dedicated team providing a complete service assessing and helping to solve our Client Companies' staffing problems as well as interviewing and providing career guidance to job seekers.

We will train an ambitious individual, keen to demonstrate initiative and achieve success. There are opportunities to move into Management both in the U.K. and abroad.

If you have a sound business background, are 24 plus, and would like to know more about us, please telephone: Eileen Anderson on 01-734 0511. DRAX PERSONNEL, 225 Regent St., W.1

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01-493 2155/0806 Mary Overton Female Executives 29 New Bond Street, London W1X 9BD

Conscientious, mature

Secretary for Deputy Chairman

£3,000+ and bonus

A very well known nationwide company providing professional services to industrial and commercial clients, seeks a fully experienced Secretary, aged 35 plus, for their second-most-senior Executive. His work is often pressurised, and invariably highly confidential, and his Secretary must therefore have the ability and character to produce first-class results on own initiative. For further details call Ian James on 584 6767.

CRIPPS SEARS AND ASSOCS (CONSULTANTS)

BILINGUAL SECRETARY

FRENCH/ENGLISH

Our client, the London office of a well-known international Banking Group, requires a responsible, totally reliable secretary to look after the Managing Director and run the office. First-rate shorthand and typing in both French and English is essential. Good presence and initiative very important. Salary up to £4,000. 4 weeks' holiday. Age over 25. Please apply in strict confidence, quoting reference number 1678, to Clive & Stokes, 14 Bolton Street, London W1Y 6JL.

Are you one of the 20 girls we are looking for?

If you are between 20-28 with a degree or good secretarial or household management training and experience, there's a chance to use your talents in more ways than you ever thought possible.

As a WRNS Officer. According to your qualifications and with further naval training you could work on an Admirals staff or be in personnel selection or you could be in a key position with NATO.

Alternatively you could take charge of WRNS accommodation or plan the Officers' catering. Whatever you do, you would have responsibilities for personnel welfare.

So if you are after a really satisfying career (with the extra benefits of travel, sport and comradeship) this could be the job for you.

Of course, you will have a lot of questions to ask, as there is not room here to go into all the aspects of life as an Officer in the WRNS.

So to find out more, please write to: Chief Officer C.V. Reynolds, WRNS Officer Entry Section, (9KAC4) Ministry of Defence, Old Admiralty Building, London SW1A 2BE.



DIRECTOR'S SECRETARY

It is fair to say that this is a job out of the ordinary. The need is for a person experienced at senior level to undertake secretarial responsibility to the Director of a recently formed European Business Team and his executive group. Each has already held senior responsibility in one of the company's overseas locations or in England. The job is challenging and will require both energy and a willing disposition.

Salary to match the job's demands will be generous and there are L.V.s and 4 weeks holiday per year.

If you are interested, please contact Mr B. C. C. Compton, Personnel Officer, Room and House Company, Chesterfield House, Barter Street, W.C.1. or telephone 01-586 8344.

NATIONAL FEDERATION OF WOMEN'S INSTITUTES

Home Economics and Specialised Crafts

Applications are invited for the post of

ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY

to the above committee which covers one of the major areas of the Federation's work. Applicants may have a degree or equivalent qualifications and should have had some administrative experience, have a good command of English and a knowledge of common procedures. Typing ability and an interest in practical craftwork and domestic science useful but not essential.

The work involves servicing the committee, providing a range of specialist services in Crafts and Home Economics, arranging for students to be examined in a series of Basic Home Economics Certificate and organising courses and conferences. Salary range £2,750-£4,000 p.a. 28 days annual holiday, L.V.s 35p daily. Applicants, including a curriculum vitae by 18 April 1976 to the General Secretary, National Federation of Women's Institutes, 39 Eccleston Street, London SW1V 9NT marking the envelope 'Private'.

Experienced Secretary/Personal Assistant

required for

International Group Managing Director

to work in PARIS office

Must be fluent in French and preferably with knowledge of one or two other languages in addition to English mother tongue. Must be experienced with good typing and shorthand speeds.

Please send resume in first instance to:—

Lee Cooper Group Limited, 26-28 Sackville Street, London W1 (initial interview at London Office)

OASIS OIL COMPANY OF LIBYA INC.

SECRETARIES

Are needed to work in the Company's Head Office in Tripoli. Secretaries must have certificates for speeds of at least 100 wpm shorthand and 50 wpm for typewriting plus university qualifications. A salary of £450-£550 with broad secretarial experience including the above speeds preferably with overseas or oil experience. Starting annual salary will range from £4,100 to £4,500 for Secretaries choosing the fully furnished Company accommodation or £4,900-£5,700 if you wish to make your own accommodation arrangements. Annual vacation of 30 days plus two short interim breaks with air travel assistance. Other benefits are also provided.

Please contact CHARLES R. LISTER INTERNATIONAL LIMITED, 23 Cavenish Square, London W1M 5HF—telephone 01-629 0982.

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY AND PERSONAL ASSISTANT

A really capable one aged around 24 to 28 is required whose qualities should include patience, determination and a keen sense of personal loyalty. The candidate should also be attractive and well dressed, perceptive and gifted in dealing with different people and varied day to day problems. Pleasant offices in Mayfair area. A very substantial salary is offered as well as clothing allowance and car. Please reply to own handwriting to Box 0124 P, The Times.

Please send resume in first instance to:—

Lee Cooper Group Limited, 26-28 Sackville Street, London W1 (initial interview at London Office)

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Two jobs for two top Secretaries

Main Board Financial Director requires a secretary who can anticipate and organise an extremely busy timetable and on whom he can rely to be entirely responsible for the administration of his personal office. Of course, your shorthand and typing will be impeccable, and you'll have an A level education too. Experience in Finance would be an advantage. Salary: up to £3,300. (Rising in June).

Financial Controller is looking for a secretary with the same personality and ability to help him run a department of some thirty people. Normal secretarial duties are involved—arranging appointments, meetings, liaison within the department etc. Your typing and

shorthand should be first class, and having to work under pressure is something to take for granted. Salary up to £3,000. (Rising in June). Working Conditions: Both appointments are at our Head Office—a few minutes walk from Baker Street Station—and you'll have your own office with IBM typewriter. Other benefits include 5 weeks' holiday a year, subsidised restaurant, and contributory pension scheme. For more details and interview, write to or phone: Miss Nancy Pile, British Leyland Ltd, Leyland House, 171 Marylebone Rd, LONDON NW1 5AA. Tel. 01-482 6800.



Challoners Top Appointments Division

GERMAN SPEAKING P.A. TO £3,500

Responsible, energetic P.A. to a top executive in a leading international company. The successful candidate will be a German speaking woman with good conversational German and a good knowledge of English. She will be responsible for the day to day running of the executive's office, including the management of his diary, travel arrangements, and the handling of correspondence. Salary up to £3,500 p.a. with 4 weeks holiday and a contributory pension scheme. Please write to: Joanna Knight, Executive Consultant, 19/20 Oxford Street, London W1. Tel: 01-437 9030.

RESEARCH-TYPE OPENING WITH REAL EXECUTIVE POTENTIAL

Key executive at major American company. Research and development work. The successful candidate will be a research and development executive with a degree or equivalent qualifications and a good knowledge of English and a knowledge of common procedures. Typing ability and an interest in practical craftwork and domestic science useful but not essential. The work involves servicing the committee, providing a range of specialist services in Crafts and Home Economics, arranging for students to be examined in a series of Basic Home Economics Certificate and organising courses and conferences. Salary range £2,750-£4,000 p.a. 28 days annual holiday, L.V.s 35p daily. Applicants, including a curriculum vitae by 18 April 1976 to the General Secretary, National Federation of Women's Institutes, 39 Eccleston Street, London SW1V 9NT marking the envelope 'Private'.

For more details of both appointments ring JOANNA KNIGHT Executive Consultant

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of international City Company needs fast class Secretary/Personal Assistant. Salary £2,500 p.a. with 4 weeks holiday and a contributory pension scheme. Please write to: Joanna Knight, Executive Consultant, 19/20 Oxford Street, London W1. Tel: 01-437 9030.

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Required for busy European customer service department of large international company in West End, but in small office environment. This challenging position includes order preparation, customer service with some assistance to the European Industrial Sales Group. Ability to work with technical products, to communicate with customers and some typing are all assets for this job. Major company benefits available and salary is £2,800 commensurate with experience. This is an excellent growth opportunity for a young and willing employee. Aged 21-28 preferred. Phone 280 280, ext. 259.

La creme de la creme

SECRETARY-P.A.

To Chairman of
KYLE STEWART GROUP
Based Wembley Park

This appointment requires a pleasant well-mannered personality, combined with initiative and an industrious nature, plus senior secretarial experience including high standard dictation and shorthand.

Salary negotiable—twice annual bonus, 4 weeks' holiday. Telephone (01) 903 5012, ext. 25 or write to the Personnel Manager, Kyle Stewart (Contractors) Limited, Ardhill House, Empire Way, Wembley, Middlesex HA9 6NA.

Bi-Lingual Secretary

Hoyes, Middlesex

Mercedes-Benz (UK) Ltd. Hoyes, have a vacancy for a Bi-Lingual English/German Secretary (part-time) to be based in their offices in Wembley. The duties will be to assist the Sales Manager in his duties and to act as a liaison between the company and its German customers. The successful candidate will be required to have a good knowledge of German and English, to be able to type and to have a pleasant personality. The salary is £2,800 p.a. plus 4 weeks' holiday and 12.5% superannuation. Applications should be sent to: The Personnel Manager, Mercedes-Benz (UK) Ltd., Ardhill House, Empire Way, Wembley, Middlesex HA9 6NA.

FRANCE PRIVATE SECRETARY/PA

An international company requires a qualified and experienced French speaking Secretary/PA. The successful candidate will be required to have a good knowledge of French and English, to be able to type and to have a pleasant personality. The salary is £2,800 p.a. plus 4 weeks' holiday and 12.5% superannuation. Applications should be sent to: The Personnel Manager, Mercedes-Benz (UK) Ltd., Ardhill House, Empire Way, Wembley, Middlesex HA9 6NA.

PERSONNEL

£3,000

We are looking for a P.A. to assist the Managing Director in his duties. The successful candidate will be required to have a good knowledge of English and French, to be able to type and to have a pleasant personality. The salary is £3,000 p.a. plus 4 weeks' holiday and 12.5% superannuation. Applications should be sent to: The Personnel Manager, Mercedes-Benz (UK) Ltd., Ardhill House, Empire Way, Wembley, Middlesex HA9 6NA.

Career plan

17 Ave. St. off Regent St., W.1

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

for Director of Conference organising company. Interesting and varied work with a rapidly expanding field. Salary according to experience and qualifications. Write to: Mr. J. H. Knapton, Conference Services Ltd., 43 Charles St., W.1 marked "Personal".

PA/SECRETARY

£3,400 neg

International W.I. co seeks competent P.A./Secretary who can work on own initiative with a view to developing a career. Successful applicant must have a good knowledge of English and French, to be able to type and to have a pleasant personality. The salary is £3,400 p.a. plus 4 weeks' holiday and 12.5% superannuation. Applications should be sent to: The Personnel Manager, Mercedes-Benz (UK) Ltd., Ardhill House, Empire Way, Wembley, Middlesex HA9 6NA.

AU SECOURS!

French Secretary (22 plus) wanted by Sales Manager of a major European company. The successful candidate will be required to have a good knowledge of French and English, to be able to type and to have a pleasant personality. The salary is £2,800 p.a. plus 4 weeks' holiday and 12.5% superannuation. Applications should be sent to: The Personnel Manager, Mercedes-Benz (UK) Ltd., Ardhill House, Empire Way, Wembley, Middlesex HA9 6NA.

All recruitment advertisements on this page are open to both male and female applicants.

The Association of Commonwealth Universities

Applications are invited for the post of PERSONAL ASSISTANT to the Secretary General of the Association of Commonwealth Universities. The successful candidate will be required to have a good knowledge of English and French, to be able to type and to have a pleasant personality. The salary is £2,800 p.a. plus 4 weeks' holiday and 12.5% superannuation. Applications should be sent to: The Personnel Manager, Mercedes-Benz (UK) Ltd., Ardhill House, Empire Way, Wembley, Middlesex HA9 6NA.

SENIOR SECRETARY

Salary Scale £2,751-£3,305

Applicants (age 25-35) should have experience of working in a senior management position. The successful candidate will be required to have a good knowledge of English and French, to be able to type and to have a pleasant personality. The salary is £2,751-£3,305 p.a. plus 4 weeks' holiday and 12.5% superannuation. Applications should be sent to: The Personnel Manager, Mercedes-Benz (UK) Ltd., Ardhill House, Empire Way, Wembley, Middlesex HA9 6NA.

INTERNATIONAL OFFICE IN LONDON SEKS EXPERIENCED SECRETARY

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PERSONNEL ASSISTANT

£3,200

Top American Co. have a great opportunity for a Personnel Assistant. The successful candidate will be required to have a good knowledge of English and French, to be able to type and to have a pleasant personality. The salary is £3,200 p.a. plus 4 weeks' holiday and 12.5% superannuation. Applications should be sent to: The Personnel Manager, Mercedes-Benz (UK) Ltd., Ardhill House, Empire Way, Wembley, Middlesex HA9 6NA.

A CAREER IN MERCHANT BANKING?

A leading family-owned City Merchant Bankers has an immediate opportunity for a talented and motivated individual to join its staff. The successful candidate will be required to have a good knowledge of English and French, to be able to type and to have a pleasant personality. The salary is £2,800 p.a. plus 4 weeks' holiday and 12.5% superannuation. Applications should be sent to: The Personnel Manager, Mercedes-Benz (UK) Ltd., Ardhill House, Empire Way, Wembley, Middlesex HA9 6NA.

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BERKELEY 50, W.1. Sec. 20-25. Sales Administration. Salary £2,800 p.a. plus 4 weeks' holiday and 12.5% superannuation. Applications should be sent to: The Personnel Manager, Mercedes-Benz (UK) Ltd., Ardhill House, Empire Way, Wembley, Middlesex HA9 6NA.

DUTCH MOTHER TONGUE

English and possibly a degree in Dutch. The successful candidate will be required to have a good knowledge of English and French, to be able to type and to have a pleasant personality. The salary is £2,800 p.a. plus 4 weeks' holiday and 12.5% superannuation. Applications should be sent to: The Personnel Manager, Mercedes-Benz (UK) Ltd., Ardhill House, Empire Way, Wembley, Middlesex HA9 6NA.

GENTLEMEN'S CLUB

Call Mr. G. H. Knapton, Conference Services Ltd., 43 Charles St., W.1 marked "Personal".

SECRETARY/PA TO CHAIRMAN

£2,800

Challenging position for a top class, intelligent Secretary/PA. The successful candidate will be required to have a good knowledge of English and French, to be able to type and to have a pleasant personality. The salary is £2,800 p.a. plus 4 weeks' holiday and 12.5% superannuation. Applications should be sent to: The Personnel Manager, Mercedes-Benz (UK) Ltd., Ardhill House, Empire Way, Wembley, Middlesex HA9 6NA.

SENIOR SECRETARY

A mature and capable Senior Secretary is required for an international group. The successful candidate will be required to have a good knowledge of English and French, to be able to type and to have a pleasant personality. The salary is £2,800 p.a. plus 4 weeks' holiday and 12.5% superannuation. Applications should be sent to: The Personnel Manager, Mercedes-Benz (UK) Ltd., Ardhill House, Empire Way, Wembley, Middlesex HA9 6NA.

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Enormous is what they are. They're a publishing group which will double its size in the next few years. The successful candidate will be required to have a good knowledge of English and French, to be able to type and to have a pleasant personality. The salary is £2,800 p.a. plus 4 weeks' holiday and 12.5% superannuation. Applications should be sent to: The Personnel Manager, Mercedes-Benz (UK) Ltd., Ardhill House, Empire Way, Wembley, Middlesex HA9 6NA.

INTERVIEWS/SUPERVISORS

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WEST END AND KINGSTON

We are one of America's best-known publishing groups. The successful candidate will be required to have a good knowledge of English and French, to be able to type and to have a pleasant personality. The salary is £2,700 p.a. plus 4 weeks' holiday and 12.5% superannuation. Applications should be sent to: The Personnel Manager, Mercedes-Benz (UK) Ltd., Ardhill House, Empire Way, Wembley, Middlesex HA9 6NA.

BERKELEY SQUARE

SECRETARY/PA, required by a major international group. The successful candidate will be required to have a good knowledge of English and French, to be able to type and to have a pleasant personality. The salary is £2,800 p.a. plus 4 weeks' holiday and 12.5% superannuation. Applications should be sent to: The Personnel Manager, Mercedes-Benz (UK) Ltd., Ardhill House, Empire Way, Wembley, Middlesex HA9 6NA.

EXPERIENCED SECRETARY

Required by two partners for a major international group. The successful candidate will be required to have a good knowledge of English and French, to be able to type and to have a pleasant personality. The salary is £2,800 p.a. plus 4 weeks' holiday and 12.5% superannuation. Applications should be sent to: The Personnel Manager, Mercedes-Benz (UK) Ltd., Ardhill House, Empire Way, Wembley, Middlesex HA9 6NA.

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Broadcasting

is an alternative to hardships and hard times in Britain the new 13-part serial 'The Kingdom' (ITV 9.0) traces the teething problems of Australia in the 1830s. Another down-under series, 'Seven Little Australians' (BBC1 5.10), is a charming part-adventure first shown two years ago. 'Survivors' (BBC1 8.10) returns after an eleven first series charting the world following a plague. Jack Jones (BBC2 9.0)—a singer not the trade unionist—entertains, and 'The Wednesday Special' (ITV 10.30) goes on a fashion parade. Two of the nation's spring preoccupations, the 'Final' and the 'Grand National', are the subject of 'Sportsnight' (BBC1 9.25), while a pleasantly old-fashioned 'Oneupmanship' (BBC2 9.50) finds Richard Briers eekending, and Cockney comedian Mike Reid is the quizmaster in 'Runaround' (TV 4.25)—T.S.

Radio

10.00 am, News, 10.15, 10.30, 10.45, 11.00, 11.15, 11.30, 11.45, 12.00, 12.15, 12.30, 12.45, 1.00, 1.15, 1.30, 1.45, 2.00, 2.15, 2.30, 2.45, 3.00, 3.15, 3.30, 3.45, 4.00, 4.15, 4.30, 4.45, 5.00, 5.15, 5.30, 5.45, 6.00, 6.15, 6.30, 6.45, 7.00, 7.15, 7.30, 7.45, 8.00, 8.15, 8.30, 8.45, 9.00, 9.15, 9.30, 9.45, 10.00, 10.15, 10.30, 10.45, 11.00, 11.15, 11.30, 11.45, 12.00, 12.15, 12.30, 12.45, 1.00, 1.15, 1.30, 1.45, 2.00, 2.15, 2.30, 2.45, 3.00, 3.15, 3.30, 3.45, 4.00, 4.15, 4.30, 4.45, 5.00, 5.15, 5.30, 5.45, 6.00, 6.15, 6.30, 6.45, 7.00, 7.15, 7.30, 7.45, 8.00, 8.15, 8.30, 8.45, 9.00, 9.15, 9.30, 9.45, 10.00, 10.15, 10.30, 10.45, 11.00, 11.15, 11.30, 11.45, 12.00, 12.15, 12.30, 12.45, 1.00, 1.15, 1.30, 1.45, 2.00, 2.15, 2.30, 2.45, 3.00, 3.15, 3.30, 3.45, 4.00, 4.15, 4.30, 4.45, 5.00, 5.15, 5.30, 5.45, 6.00, 6.15, 6.30, 6.45, 7.00, 7.15, 7.30, 7.45, 8.00, 8.15, 8.30, 8.45, 9.00, 9.15, 9.30, 9.45, 10.00, 10.15, 10.30, 10.45, 11.00, 11.15, 11.30, 11.45, 12.00, 12.15, 12.30, 12.45, 1.00, 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This Special Report examines one of the fastest developing societies in the world, a union formed from seven neighbouring shaikhdoms in 1971. In particular it looks at the spending and investing of vast oil revenues both at home and abroad

United Arab Emirates

Military merger is next big hurdle

by Ann Fyfe

Détente is not exclusive to the superpowers. In the Gulf in this past year or so the leaders of Iraq and Iran embraced in public, the regime Aden régime edged part of the way back into the Arab fold in parallel with the apparent ending of the Dhofar insurgency in Oman and the United Arab Emirates shook diplomatic hands with its two big neighbours, Saudi Arabia and Iran. These latter two developments were the big ones externally in 1975; at home several of the remaining obstacles in the path of federalism were surmounted, leaving the issue of the merger of the Armed Forces in the centre of attention.

Some projects were completed, many more begun; life is expensive but comfortable for most with an already wide but widening range of luxury lines in the shops. The population is at last quantified (the census was a big national event not without its humorous moments) at 355,337—double the rough estimate of 1974. Many of the vital are foreigners against whom there is no trace of xenophobia yet, multiracialism having long been an economic fact of life.

Externally, independence in 1971 left the UAE in bad odour with its two big neighbours, Saudi Arabia and Iran, the former with a territorial claim on a group of oases in the south of the emirates and the latter with claim on the offshore islands. Mending, or rather ismending, the fences has been the UAE's immediate foreign policy concern since then, and in the autumn of 1974 a border agreement on the Liwa oases was signed with Saudi Arabia.

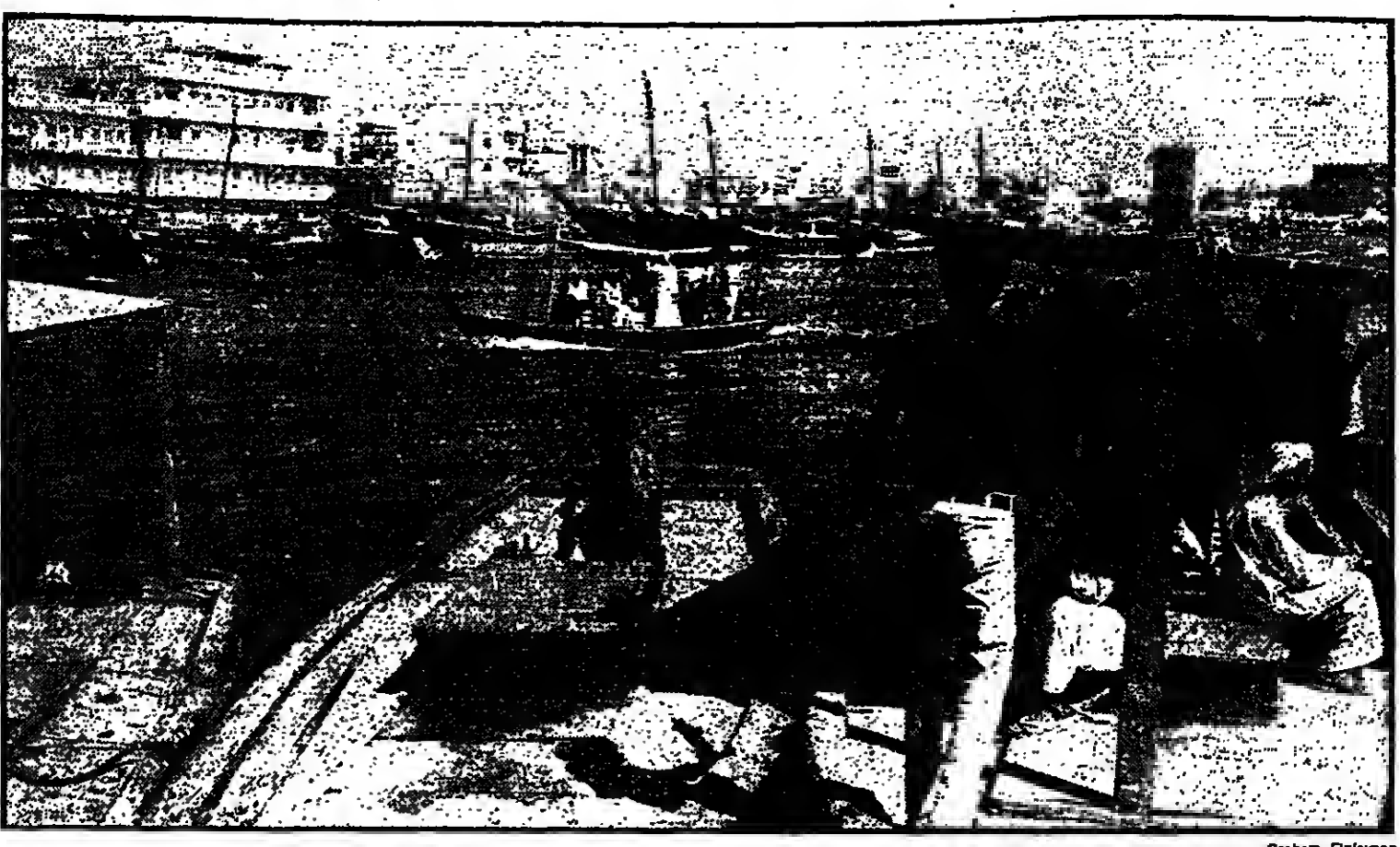
Saudi then recognized the UAE at last; the two countries exchanged ambassadors

and Shaikh Zayed, the Head of State of the UAE, paid a state visit to Saudi Arabia in 1975. Prince Fahd returned it and while in Abu Dhabi met the foreign minister of the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen, hitherto the fly in the ointment of détente in the Gulf.

Just before Christmas last year the Sultan of Oman announced that the Dhofar rebellion, long supplied and led from the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen, was finally crushed; if this is so, there is nothing to prevent the rehabilitation of Aden, and the emirates have given the lead there by proffering a sizable loan from the Abu Dhabi Fund.

But the spectacular reconciliation of the year was the Algiers agreement between Saddam Hussein of Iraq and the Shah of Iran putting an end to the Kurdish uprising (and the Kurds) and engendering real euphoria among the smaller states farther down the Gulf. The agreement filled the newspapers of the Gulf for weeks and is still fresh in the public mind a year later, in contrast with, say, the assassination of King Faisal.

For the UAE, as for its Gulf neighbours, there is no real alternative to détente with the military giant; no one would deny that there have been difficulties, extending in size from the serious issue of the islands to the trivial one of the name of the Arabian Gulf News Agency, which recently provoked the Shah of Iran into withdrawing his ambassadors from the agency's member states, but the basic national interest in stability and the repulsion of great power overtures is the same on both sides of the Gulf. Shaikh Zayed paid a state visit to Tehran late last year.



Ferries still thrive on Dubai Creek despite the new tunnel under it.

Internally, the prestige of federalism benefited greatly from the Ruler of Sharjah's initiative in the Ministry of the Interior. Next, later in 1975, Abu Dhabi made a significant move in the direction of financial federalism by committing half of its 1976 oil revenue in advance to the federal budget. Already in 1975 Abu Dhabi had provided 2,000m dirhams of the federation's total budget of 2,800m dirhams, but that contribution of 2,000m dirhams represented only a fraction of Abu Dhabi's own revenue from oil which amounted to 13,100m dirhams.

The federal issue outstanding is the merger of the three principal armies, the small United Defence Force, the Dubai Defence Force and the large Abu Dhabi Defence Force. At the Supreme Council Meeting, it was agreed in principle that the merger should take place after a committee of military experts from neutral Arab countries had advised on its execution.

The committee of experts duly did its work and reported to the Supreme Council met again in December to discuss its findings. This meeting was then adjourned, however, to permit the Rulers to study the report at greater length, and so far the date of its resumption has not been announced.

Apart from the Armed Forces issue, public opinion at home is greatly interested at present in the rising cost of living, particularly food and rents. Presumably on accommodation is severe and not easy; this difficulty will not be solved by market factors alone. Government intervention on food prices, such as centralized marketing, subsidies and cooperatives, is bringing some results, however, and many welfare benefits are available to citizens.

Only a minimal proportion of private sector resources is invested in manufacturing industry as yet, but this is not because of any capital famine, rather because alternative investment choices, notably property, are both profitable and familiar: a difficult problem, but a problem just the same.

Luxury goods and jewellery in particular have become more conspicuous in the past year with ranges such as Cartier, Patek Philippe, Piaget and Pierre Cardin readily available and a Real's shop newly opened in Dubai. The British Luxury Goods Exhibition in February brought china, furnishings, antiques, fine art and jewelry much of it highly regarded locally. The overall import figure for 1975, when available, will be up on 1974 but not by a percentage to three figures as was the case in the rush between 1974 and 1975.

The media consists of radio services in the four largest emirates, television in Abu Dhabi and Dubai, two Arabic-language daily newspapers, the official *al-Itihad* (Federation), which is informative and well-rounded, despite its Ministry of Information affiliations, and the more flamboyant *al-Wahda* (Unity).

Three new papers are publishing weekly but planning to go daily and there is one official English language daily, a daily Reuters service and the Bahrain-based *Gulf Weekly Mirror*. Circulation factors limit the prospects of any daily paper there but government financial assistance is being made available, the press being seen apart from anything else as a safety valve. Certainly *al-Itihad* is much oriented to community issues.

Last year it was reported that the price of food was the main butt of the *Itihad* satirists. This year food prices still crop up on the cartoon page but have been joined by the issues of insurance, bureaucracy and the census enumerators, who were nois, disregard any civil pioeers and came up disturbance factor.

For most citizens the living is comfortable, unvarnished and expensive. All the national communities mix frequently as a matter of course, and no one lives in fear of a knock at the door; joined by the issues of insurance company, bureaucracy and the census enumerators, who were nois, disregard any civil pioeers and came up disturbance factor.

Landlords also come under attack (particularly after this year's exceptionally cold wet winter, a matter for celebration in that part of the world except that heavy rain turned many of the roads into slums). There were two scandals, one involving building contractors and the other visas.

Immigration is another national issue; the National Assembly, whose growth in public stature has been one of the main events of 1975, cut its teeth on a rather open-ended nationality law, and threw it out. But the UAE cannot develop without foreign labour and skills. There is an element of tight-rope walking there.

Incidentally, visitors might note that in the prevailing circumstances, the 96-hour visa at the airport is being extended to allow businessmen, with credit, only.

A labour law has been drafted and debated in the assembly. It guarantees a minimum wage, certain basic conditions of work, social assistance is being made available, the press being seen apart from anything else as a safety valve. Certainly *al-Itihad* is much oriented to community issues.

For most citizens the living is comfortable, unvarnished and expensive. All the national communities mix frequently as a matter of course, and no one lives in fear of a knock at the door; joined by the issues of insurance company, bureaucracy and the census enumerators, who were nois, disregard any civil pioeers and came up disturbance factor.

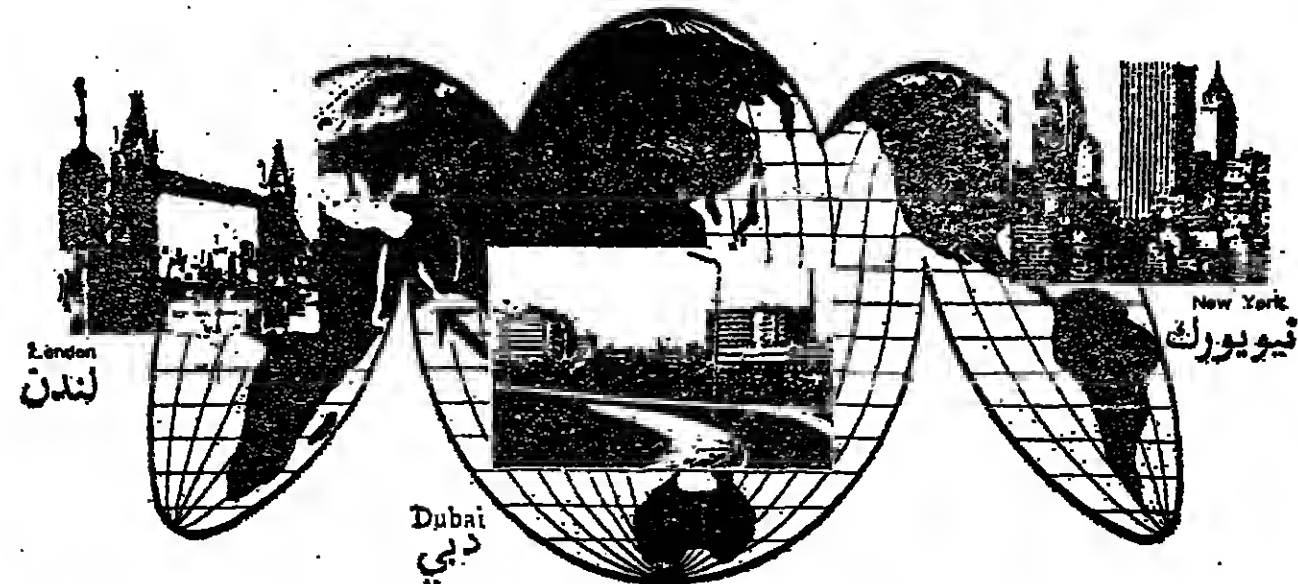
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Serious inflation despite immense prosperity

by Malcolm Brown

The going rate for a dowry in the United Arab Emirates—the prospective husband pays the wife's parents—is now about 16,000 dirhams (£2,000). This enormous sum, which is causing social problems that are attracting the attention of the Government, is just one of the side effects of the serious inflation which has become part of the way of life in the emirates.

The emirates are immensely prosperous, but its wealth is based almost wholly on oil. Revenues from the oilfields have risen greatly since the first oil shipment left Abu Dhabi's Das island 13 years ago. Oil receipts in 1974 alone, after the major price increases in October, 1973 and January, 1974, were equal to the total for the previous decade.

But being almost a one-commodity state, the emirates depend on imports to fulfil nearly all their basic needs. Food, manufactured goods, machinery, transport equipment, building materials, textiles and iron and steel are all shipped or flown in.

So, having helped to export inflation to America, Europe and Japan with the 1973-74 oil price increases, the UAE is now reimporting it with every ton of foreign goods which is offloaded. Compounding this, rents are rising at 50 to 70 per cent a year.

Estimates of the overall rate of inflation vary, but even the most modest would be about 30 to 35 per cent. At its simplest level the effects of this can be seen in the foodshops, where it is possible to find half a dozen price stickers on one tin of food, each cancelling out the previous one. When a bank manager has to pay £3,000 a year, in advance, to rent a modest house and tells one that the basic philosophy of anyone who wants to live in the UAE must be to pay today, for tomorrow the price may have doubled, it is clear that the internal economy of the country leaves a lot to be desired.

It is difficult to judge just how seriously the Arabs take this problem. Institutions like the UAE Currency Board sound warnings that the inflation, already serious, may get worse if this import-intensive country continues to be so consumer-oriented and incomes continue to rise.

But as yet there are no obvious signs that the UAE Government feels the prob-

lem is getting out of hand or has it in mind to use any draconian measures to dampen the rate of price increases. Instead, the visitor's attention is directed to the boom aspects of the economy—the enormous amount of money which is being collected on oil and the generous financial aid which the emirates are making to less fortunate countries.

The money flowing from the UAE's oil resources is high. The net oil revenue in the UAE in 1974 was 20,000 dirhams, with the same or more expected to be shown up in the final figures for 1975—and that for a country with a total population significantly smaller than a city such as Birmingham.

This vast wealth—the emirates have the highest per capita income in the world—is at once a boon and a potential danger. On the one hand, it permits the emirates, which a decade ago were a group of poor states based on the traditional activities of fishing and agriculture, to fund the extensive developments needed to bring them speedily into the second half of the twentieth century. On the other hand, it has led them to a large extent from the consequences of their own mistakes, which in the long run could be dangerous.

When money is no object there is a danger that the ability to differentiate between a good or a bad investment will be impaired. Last May, for example, it was announced that Dubai was to build a multi-million pound 'tourism' complex six months later Abu Dhabi was said to be considering a similar scheme. Yet the two towns are less than 150 miles apart. Are they simply vying with one another for prestige projects? With Bahrain's emirate only a short way up the Gulf, does the UAE, a small country, really need its own smelter?

In general, development in the main two centres, whether or not it is the right kind of project, is taking place at a rapid pace. Docks, bridges, houses, hospitals, office blocks, roads and luxury hotels all jockey for place in the building programme, providing a gold mine for the construction companies and a major source of employment.

The pace is far slower in the northern emirates, Sharjah, Umm al-Qaywayn, Ras al-Khaimah, Ajman and Fujairah—though even there the tempo is beginning to increase. Ras al-Khaimah has started work on a deep water port at Khor Khawair and Fujairah is drawing up plans for an airport and port.



Arabs shopping in a supermarket.

But while the main services are being attended to with a rare promptness, there is little sign yet of any significant movement towards industrial diversification. There are one or two projects as yet highly capital-intensive, such as the liquefied natural gas plant on Das island and the new oil refinery, which will serve both domestic neighbouring markets; in Dubai, the massive dry dock, due for completion in 1978 which will be a 100-acre complex of workshops.

Diversification of the lighter end of industry is painfully slow, and has tended to centre on the needs of the building industry: four cement works are either under construction or completed, one on Ras al-Khaimah, Sharjah, Dubai and Al Ain; Dubai is to have an aluminium extrusion plant and Sharjah a ready-mixed concrete plant. Apart from that there is little else except the occasional bakery and soft drink factory or plastics and paint factories.

A severe constraint on all industry in the emirates is labour. Indigenous labour is scarce and even the large influx of immigrants, who now significantly outnumber emirate citizens, has been insufficient to cope with the demand.

The emirates lean heavily on the oil industry to do so for some considerable time on immigrant labour and the skills, technology and management abilities of expatriates. Heavy labour is largely done by

Pakistanis and Iranians. Abu Dhabi, probably have at least another 50 to 75 years' life in them and there could be other finds. But eventually the UAE will have to find a new way to make a living.

It is perhaps unfair, after less than five years since the UAE's formation, to expect anyone to have any clear idea of how such apparently long-term problems are to be solved. The Arabs are still enjoying the first flush of excitement which comes with a boom in the case of the emirates the next few years will show. For the moment the UAE Government and the various state administrations are still working on a material and error basis. They are still trying to build a 'state fund' for the future mid-twentieth century by investing a proportion of economy almost from its funds overseas. What is scratch.

Most of the alien population is attracted by the fairly high salaries, although what is regarded as high is only relative to where one has come from; thus the 23 dirhams a day basic for labourers (about £18 a six-day week) is not a great deal, but clearly attracts many immigrants from Pakistan.

Precisely what proportion of the population is immigrant is impossible to say, since the UAE Government has just dropped a bombshell on the demographers by announcing that the census now shows a total population of 655,937, a considerable difference from the 1974 figure and the (1968) estimate of 180,000. But everyone is now waiting to see the detailed census figures before they make rash statements of any kind about the population and the racial breakdown of the emirates.

What will happen to the emirates when the oil runs out? The main resources, lo-

Oil firms still welcome

by Roger Vielvoye

The two consortia of western oil companies operating in Abu Dhabi have been engaged over the past eight months in a series of complex but intermittent talks with the Government over the form future relationships between the groups and the state should take.

The two groups, Abu Dhabi Petroleum Co (ADPC) and Abu Dhabi Marine Areas (ADMA) are 40 per cent owned by the big international oil groups with the remaining equity in the hands of the Government.

Unlike the other Gulf countries where most of the negotiations between the company and government over the past year have centred on the various states' desire to convert their 60 per cent holdings into 100 per cent control of the operating companies, Abu Dhabi has said publicly that it does not want to increase its holding ADMA.

Mansour al-Otaiba, the Oil Minister, has said on several occasions that he wants the companies to stay in Abu Dhabi with an equity share in the consortium, continuing to put up their share of new investment capital. But some important, Abu Dhabi wants the companies to remain because they have the technical skills to operate the difficult fields. Offshore, particularly, the structure of the oil reservoirs is complex and needs continual expert attention if output is not to fall.

Even the companies, with their years of operating difficult oil reservoirs, have been stretched to keep the oil flowing in the volumes planned. There is plenty of oil; the problem is getting it out of the ground.

Already millions of dollars have been invested in additional production equipment to improve the flow of oil but it is thought that even more work and capital investment will be needed in the future.

Abu Dhabi's independent stance on participation comes at a time when one of its close neighbours, Kuwait, has reached an agreement with British Petroleum and Gulf Oil that gives the Government 100 per cent control of the Kuwait Oil Company. Further up the Gulf, Iraq has taken over

the oil companies' remaining foothold in the country but more important its immediate neighbour, Saudi Arabia, is in the final stages of negotiating to take over the oil companies' remaining 40 per cent share in the Arabian American Oil Company (Aramco).

In the past Abu Dhabi and the other emirates have been greatly influenced in oil policy decisions by the actions of their powerful neighbour. At the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (Opec) the UAE has tended to back up the Saudis particularly on the question of prices.

Saudi Arabia's determination to win 100 per cent control of Aramco, the world's largest oil producing company, is unlikely to divert Abu Dhabi from its decision to maintain its company stake in ADPC and ADMA.

As well as the need for company help and expert knowledge in the maintenance of existing secondary recovery programmes and the installation of new projects, there are also problems with the high gas to oil ratio that has developed in some reservoirs which need the attention of experts from the international groups.

Last autumn concern at the behaviour of these reservoirs grew to the point where the production ceiling was reduced from 1,500,000 barrels a day to 1,350,000 barrels a day on a temporary basis. Problems with production combined with a slump in demand at the beginning of the year before Abu Dhabi reduced its quality differentials, led to an overall decline in output last year.

Annual figures were helped by a recovery in demand during December when output rose to nearly 1,600,000 barrels a day. The final output was 1,402 million barrels a day compared with 1,414 million barrels a day in 1974, but it was still above the 1,302 million barrels a day in 1973.

Abu Dhabi Petroleum in which the oil company equity is held by BP, Shell, CFP, Mobil and Exxon still produces more than half the country's oil from the offshore fields. Output in 1975

dropped to 896,000 barrels a day from the peak of 917,000 the previous year.

The output figures of Abu Dhabi Marine Areas (owned jointly by the Government, BP, CFP and a group of Japanese companies), reflected both the slump in demand and the difficulties with production. Output, which reached a peak at 500,000 barrels a day in 1973, slipped to 458,000 barrels a day in 1974 and went even lower to 422,000 barrels a day last year. The French-led CFP group increased its production from about 17,000 barrels a day to more than 60,000 barrels a day while Abu Dhabi Oil's output remained static at an estimated 20,000 barrels a day.

Abu Dhabi, also, has large reserves of natural gas. But in all the Gulf countries there is difficulty in disposing profitably of the quantities produced in association with crude oil, and a large amount is still burnt off daily. A number of structures containing gas without oil have been found but in view of the problems of disposing of the supplies, Government association with crude oil, no attempt has been made to develop these reservoirs or undertake an accurate survey of their size. Some experts rank these in the same class as Groningen in Holland and Hassi-R'Mel in Algeria, which are among the largest in the world.

Plans to develop gas found in association with oil from ADPC's onshore fields received a setback last year when the oil company members of the consortium withdrew after a disagreement on commercial prospects for the development programme.

Development plans started modestly in 1972 with proposals for a \$120m plant. It has since been expanded and now has a proposed capacity of five million tons a year of natural gas liquids and condensate and two million tons of liquid petroleum gas. According to the Government the withdrawal of the companies makes no difference and it may proceed alone or with other partners.

The cause of the withdrawal by BP, Shell, CFP, Exxon and Mobil, was the

continued on facing page

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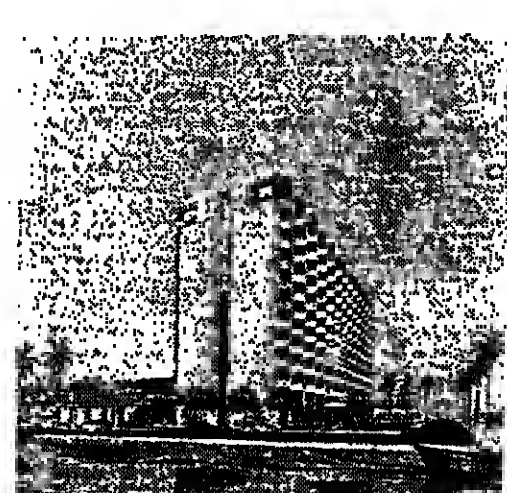
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Blurred line between government and governed

by Ann Fyfe

Only a small section of the political scene is occupied by the rulers of the emirates—each from Abu Dhabi and Dubai six each from Sharjah and Ras al-Khaimah and four each from Ajman, Umm al-Qaywayn and Fujairah—there is no question of its being a rubber stamp.

When a Bill is being debated on the floor of the Assembly, the relevant minister is summoned and questioned; amendments, if any, are then put to him. The minister is expected to cooperate and in something like 90 per cent of cases, does so. Individual members can at any time table a question to the minister and then have a constitutional right to a written or verbal reply, on which he can then comment. Theoretically, the Government can pass legislation when the Assembly is not sitting, but it would be a controversial issue if it ever did so and in any case this loophole may or may not be left open in the new permanent constitution, now being drafted, which must come into effect by December 1.

Members of the Assembly tend to be young to middle aged and are selected by the rulers in accordance with the Islamic criterion of "men of good judgment". It is not their rulers for whom they speak, however—the rulers speak for themselves in the Supreme Council—again in the nature of this type of society the members are permanently in contact with members of the public, who know the members personally and have no reason to be reticent in presenting their views to them. Eventually, no doubt, there will be elections; these might change a few faces in the Assembly, but not its character, which is already representative in a meaningful sense.

Which issues does the Assembly feel most concerned about? As a federal body it is vitally concerned with the seven emirates and states into what they con-

sider a stronger federal system. This means it asks embarrassing questions about the armies, of which there are three instead of one, and about the coordination of planning throughout all the emirates, particularly as far as industrialization is concerned.

Transferring real powers over defence and industrial planning is right at the heart of the federal issue and arouses a great deal of press coverage. Other issues which crop up are controlling immigration—the first major piece of legislation the Assembly threw out was a draft nationality law which appeared irregularly on the front page, one of which drums up public attention to federal issues before the Supreme Council meetings and one which is written in the local and usually spoken Gulf Arabic vernacular and takes a consistent Ombudsman-style line against excesses of bureaucracy.

For the rest of the education and health, although their activities extend from setting up youth clubs to the rehabilitation of ex-prisoners. They certainly have no trouble making contact with the deserving, who have no qualms about going to the ministry and expressing their needs.

One particular experimental venture, the mother and child centre at al-Buraim, near Abu Dhabi town, has been operating for a year and, after meeting some opposition, is enough of a success to encourage the ministry to set up several more. Aiming to improve social, medical and economic circumstances for a group of about 20 families in the small catchment area, the centre's five women social workers have brought to light some fascinating implications of rapid material improvements in a traditional society. Having been introduced to modern baby care techniques, for example, the women tend to regard breast-feeding as old-fashioned and inconvenient, which is not what the social workers intended. Again, the effect of leading some young men to seek wives outside the country, not a welcome development in local opinion, but the government has set up an inquiry into domestic violence in set an upper limit on them.

The social workers show educational films, advise on child care, keep track of vaccination dates, teach the

Minister of Labour expressed his fervent hope that the day would soon dawn when a woman minister took her place on the Council, the amendment, despite the Assembly President's support, was defeated by 31 votes to six with three abstentions.

Shaikh Zaid, the UAE President, has said that the new constitution will be based on the principles of Islam, which would mean that consultation with men of good judgment and the accessibility of the Ruler to his people would remain at the core of the political process. Elections are probably some way in the future as yet but needs at least on the local scene, appear to be successfully transmitted and met without them at present. If the country's rapid physical growth were to erode the accessibility of the Ruler this could cease to be so, and of course not all the non-citizens have this direct facility. By next year's report, the constitution will be available to show how the rulers intend to allow the political bodies to develop.

Welfare without qualms



Operating in Abu Dhabi: all hospital treatment in the emirates is free.

Civil servants administering the UAE's social welfare system are faced with a situation which in two fundamental respects is the opposite of that prevailing in Britain. First, their financial resources are not scarce and, second, informing the public of its entitlements is not a difficult task in this small community and the public is not squeamish about claiming them.

In Islam, aiding the less well off is a basic and unavoidable obligation and the disadvantaged have a literally god-given right to expect help. Ministry of Social Affairs programmes are only one of the alternatives open to a citizen wanting help, however; people still commonly approach the shaikhs and present their needs directly.

The same does not apply to non-citizens. Expatriates from Europe and America usually have their needs taken care of by their companies, but the large immigrant workforce from the Indian sub-continent have only limited access to welfare benefits. Their standard of living has been badly affected by inflation, over the past two years, particularly in regard to rents and food. The situation is now being reviewed, however.

A citizen on a low income can improve his lot by either applying for a plot of land and a loan with which to build a house on it (which he must occupy) or he can move into a house on a cost development scheme. Once installed, he gets free electricity and water (both of which are otherwise very expensive) and a furniture allowance.

When he marries and starts a family, his wife has free ante and post-natal care (all hospital treatment is free to citizens and non-citizens) and can include treatment abroad and then, when the children are older, the family receives a minimum cash incentive of five dirhams a month (just under £10) to send them to school. This figure rises through successive grades to 500 dirhams a month if the child stays on until secondary school and is paid in addition to the child's own pocket money from the state. Textbooks and transport are free.

Should the father be unable to work because of illness, disability or old age, he receives help under the National Assistance Law; should he die or divorce, his wife, the woman's future is secure. If food bills become unreasonable (which they have in the past 18 months) the housewife can go to the United Arab Emirates Trading Company, which has branches in most emirates, and stock up on rice, flour, fish, vegetables and other staples bought centrally and sold at subsidised prices, a facility also open to non-citizens.

This is not a full list. Many other benefits are available including provision for any domestic catastrophe from a disaster fund. Basically, what a needy citizen requires will be supplied.

Ministry officials do not see themselves as adjudicators struggling to allocate scarce resources. They are

able to devote themselves to what they see as the educational task, particularly in health, although their activities extend from setting up youth clubs to the rehabilitation of ex-prisoners. They certainly have no trouble making contact with the deserving, who have no qualms about going to the ministry and expressing their needs.

One particular experimental venture, the mother and child centre at al-Buraim, near Abu Dhabi town, has been operating for a year and, after meeting some opposition, is enough of a success to encourage the ministry to set up several more. Aiming to improve social, medical and economic circumstances for a group of about 20 families in the small catchment area, the centre's five women social workers have brought to light some fascinating implications of rapid material improvements in a traditional society. Having been introduced to modern baby care techniques, for example, the women tend to regard breast-feeding as old-fashioned and inconvenient, which is not what the social workers intended. Again, the effect of leading some young men to seek wives outside the country, not a welcome development in local opinion, but the government has set up an inquiry into domestic violence in set an upper limit on them.

Public spending on welfare does not come under fire in either economic or ideological grounds, and adds nothing to the budget deficit. The combination of welfare with the Islamic tradition of alms-giving and taking, makes "in each according to his needs" a reality. The issue is, rather, which classes of needs are included in the welfare state.

A.F.

Oil firms still welcome

continued from facing page

emirates. Since the union there have been various suggestions for preventing Abu Dhabi from dominating the group because of the size of its exports.

Second in the emirates oil league is Dubai. All its oil comes from the offshore Fateh field, which recently has had its capacity expanded from 300,000 to 330,000 barrels a day. However, output suffered last summer from a blow-out and fire that shut down two wells and affected several others.

During December production recovered to 276,000 barrels a day but the annual rate was held down to 254,000 barrels a day. Output has risen steadily from the 219,000 barrels a day in 1973. Relations between the oil company group led by Continental Oil have been good and undoubtedly have helped to keep production trend last year.

Dubai delayed taking any

decisions on state participation until last summer when it concluded an agreement with the oil company group. Details have not been disclosed officially but the fast amortization provisions probably contribute to better margins for the companies than in other Opec countries.

In the northern emirates oil is being developed rapidly. Offshore load capacity for the field is 100,000 barrels a day but production last year averaged just under 40,000 barrels daily. Completion of a third well this month on that field has pushed daily output to 50,000 barrels. Drilling is also due to begin off Al-Fajrah in the Gulf of Oman. Osohorc drilling has started in Ras al-Khaimah under a joint venture by Vitol Exploration of Holland and the Government.

The author is Energy Correspondent, The Times.

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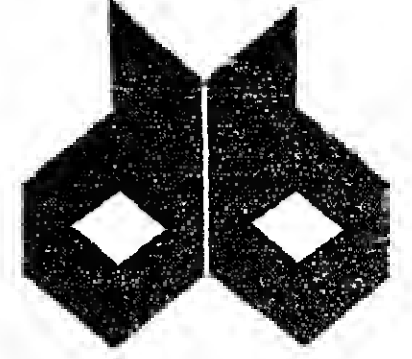
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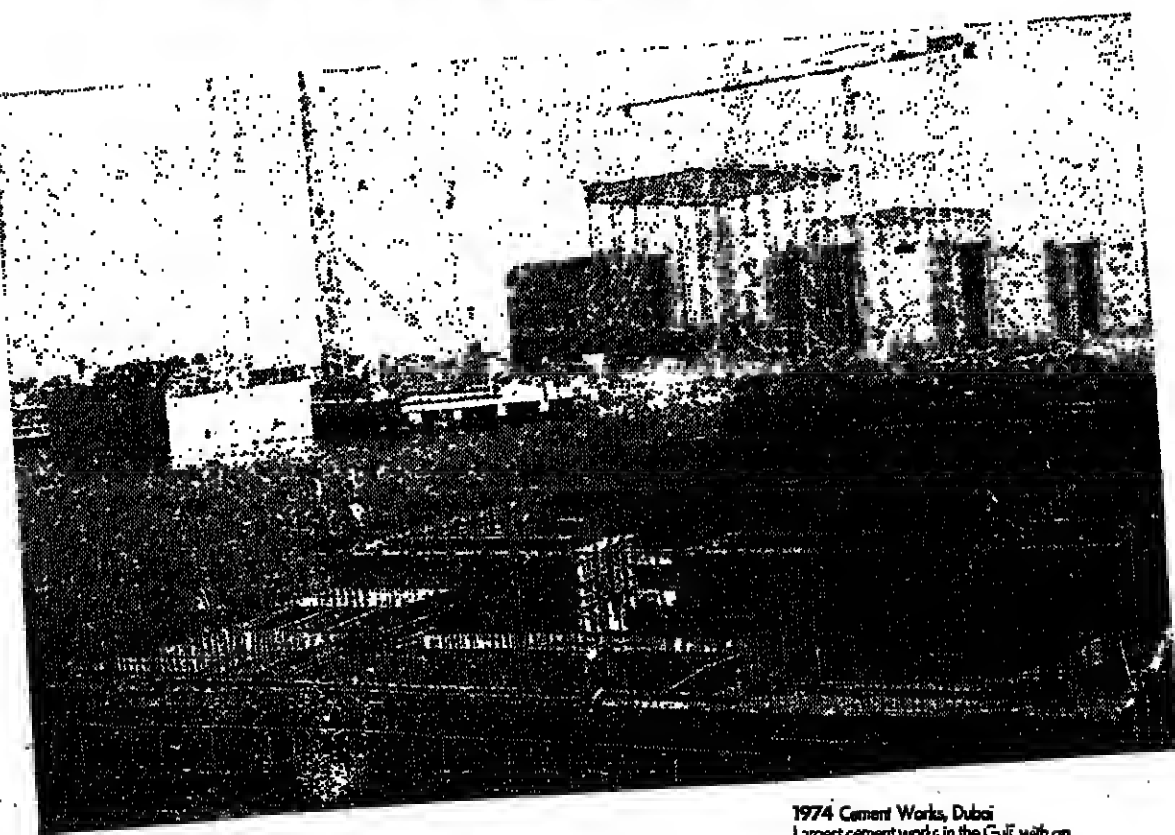
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COSTAIN

On this and the next two pages special correspondents look at the shakhdoms which form the emirates

Dubai: standing up well to the pressures of expanding and spending

Physically, Dubai is growing so fast that two more main arteries, the Sharjah and airport roads, which at the beginning of last year had buildings scattered at intervals along them, are now wholly built up, mostly with retail showrooms. Although new office and residential property is coming on the market in quantity, the rate of new arrivals needing to be accommodated is keeping rents high and rising.

Pace of growth slowing down

Possibly the pace of growth of consumption at least is calming down after the explosion of late 1974 and early 1975. Whereas imports doubled between 1973 and 1974, between 1974 and 1975 the increase was probably considerably less. The figure for the first eight months of 1975 is 4,400m dirhams (550m) against 4,800m dirhams in the whole of 1974; cargo handled at Port Rashid grew to 3,200,000 shipping tons in 1975 against 2,500,000 in 1974 but that figure showed an increase of a million over 1973.

Over these first eight months Japan was the main supplier with 19.9 per cent of the market but Britain's 18.8 per cent share was up on 1974; the United States came third. Britain's exports to Dubai in the 12 months to December 1975 stood at 108m, a very considerable increase of 95 per cent on 1974: of this total, machinery and transport equipment both had the largest share and grew at the fastest rate.

Port Rashid itself is being extended to 37 deep water berths by the addition of 22 berths to the existing 15 under an £85m contract awarded in January to the Costain-Taylor Woodrow joint venture, the same which is building the dry dock. Waiting time at the port is two or three days at present but a surcharge of 10 per cent is in force.

The port road is becoming another main show-room and office area and the 33-storey trade centre on the roundabout opposite is progressing fast. Scheduled to open late next year, this £55m facility, the tallest building in the Middle East, will house a conference centre, a 300-room hotel and business and leisure amenities.

Last autumn the Jebel Ali earth satellite station was opened, making radio communications, which were already quite good, rather better. Dubai International airport is becoming quite crowded now at peak periods and the Government is considering the need for a second terminal and extra cargo facilities.

Getting around within Dubai ought to have become easier when the second carriageway of the bridge over the creek was opened last year and the Shindagah fuel order it opened in January, but the volume of traffic is growing fast, making parking almost an impossibility on a working day. In Deira, the commercial centre, but a car is out for two multi-storey car parks. The second bridge nearer the inner end of the creek is nearing completion and the road to Abu Dhabi is now dual carriageway all the way except for a few kilometres.

All site of the satellite along the Abu Dhabi road, is also the site of Dubai's biggest industrial project, the £150m aluminium smelter being designed by British Smelter Construction, which has 20 per cent of the joint company. Dubai to the Government's 80 per cent. It has not yet been revealed how this energy-intensive plant is to be fuelled, but a final decision is expected within the next few months. There is talk of an industrial port for Jebel

Ali to serve the smelter and other projects destined for the same area, but no consensus has been formally appointed yet.

Work is well advanced on the two other giant state-sector ventures, the gas liquefaction plant and the cement factory. Sunningdale Oil has designed the former, which is a joint venture with the Government, the main contractor is Hudson Engineering of Houston, and construction contracts go out next month.

Small states where life has changed the most

It is in these three small emirates of Ajman and Umm al Qaywayn, in the northern sector, and Fujairah, on the east coast, that life styles have changed most since Federation. Federal expenditure on roads, schools, houses, clinics, electrification, agriculture and fisheries has not only transformed the lives of the fishermen and farmers who still form most of the population, but has given others employment in the Civil Service and has attracted back in number those who in the past left for the surrounding Arab countries in search of better opportunities.

It has been possible once or twice in the past year to visit a small village of bare mud-brick huts in the interior one weekend and a concrete community with neat rows of air-conditioned houses, a school and, invariably, a bright new mosque, the next. Not that any corner of the land is so bright just now—the whole United Arab Emirates is splattered with mud after an exceptionally cold, wet winter. A wet winter engenders the same euphoria there as a summer in Britain. Some attitudes have not changed.

Despite all the construction activity, the small emirates are less frenetic and more aesthetically pleasing (to a European eye) than their big sisters in the federation. There are still fishermen fishing and farmers farming and long-eared goats peering with distaste at the Buicks in the narrow streets.

Until recently Ajman's population was dependent almost entirely on fishing but is now divided between fishing, the administration and some factories. Improving the creek is the main project under way; training walls have been completed and the second stage, extending the walls and dredging the creek to a depth of 17ft, is about to start.

AHJ was one of the first companies to be quoted in Dubai's newly-functioning stock exchange.

Apart from its own small dry dock, Ajman now has its own bank, the Ajman Arab Bank, which is also public quoted and which is supported by the Government and a small American bank whose director is now financial adviser to the ruler.

Eleven other banks have opened their doors so far, the manufacturing enterprises they finance include a small insulating materials company and a plastic pipe factory. On a larger scale two companies are exploiting Ajman's vast resources of high-grade marble, but there are mountains of marble still untapped inland.

Ajman's two inland despatches, Masfat and Manama, are both largely agricultural but the former has a bottling plant which bottles local mineral water, which is exported to the other emirates and the Gulf, where it is fashionable to have mineral water on the dinner table.

Manama's livelihood is based on its date gardens, but as is the other more remote corners of the emirates, concrete buildings are spreading fast.

One of the most eye-catching agricultural projects in the country is Ajman's Gogoba tree scheme. Developed by the University of Arizona's Arid Land Research Centre, the shrub has a lifespan of 300 years during which the leaves provide valuable animal nutrition while the seeds bear a type of vegetable oil particularly suitable for use in the production of lubricants, pharmaceuticals and cosmetics. Seeds have just been purchased for planting in an experimental station in the town of Ajman.

Oil from the oilfields in Abu Dhabi, rather than that which grows on trees, will be brought to Ajman to fuel a projected 200,000 barrels a day refinery, studies for which are to be complete in the middle of this year. The project has a 55 per cent government shareholding and 45 per cent belongs to a Hongkong based petroleum concern.

Umm al Qaywayn's big news since last year is also oil; United Refining, as operator, started drilling in the offshore field some months ago. Onshore, a new concession has just been awarded to Houston Oil and Minerals. As in the other two small emirates, however, Umm al Qaywayn is basically a fishing community and its population benefits greatly from the credit and technical services

provided by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries.

There, too, the creek is being dredged by the same consultants, Halcrow Middle East, and contractors, Six Construct, as in Ajman, but the dredging is a small cargo port is to be built when the creek is complete and a 300 tons a day fish oil factory designed by Norconsult of Norway is out to tender.

A sailing and water skiing club has its headquarters in Umm al Qaywayn which is a picturesque town both offshore, where one of the islands houses a notable bird colony, and on, where a number of eighteenth and nineteenth-century watchtowers still stand, including one which was partly damaged by a British naval bombardment in the early 1800s. Two hotels are planned, one in Umm al Qaywayn and one in the inland dependency of Falal al-Hail, to be run by one of the international chains.

Fujairah's first hotel, of about 150 rooms, is already under construction by a French company and will also be managed by one of the international chains. The east coast already attracts tourists from the cities and has real tourism potential. A small airport and seaport are under study as well as a road network linking Fujairah and the villages of Dibba and Masfat, work on which has started.

The Tarmac road from the main body of the emirates to Fujairah was opened last September and immediately became one of the most heavily-used stretches of road in the country. Its completion was probably one of the main events in the history of this previously isolated community where fishing and agriculture still occupy most of the population of 26,500.

Reserve Gas and Oil start drilling in May, however, and a new onshore co-processor is being negotiated. After that there is talk of a large cement plant.

Fujairah is under new management, so to speak. The new young ruler, Shaikh Hamad who succeeded his father just over 12 months ago, came to prominence late in 1975 when he followed the example of Shaikh Sultan of Sharjah and abolished Fujairah's own flag in favour of the federal tricolour.

It is hard to think of a parallel occasion when so much has changed in so short a time. Roads, contact with outsiders, schools, material comforts are all so predictable effects; but in these tiny shakhdoms the ruling families still know every member of every household by name and that is their strength.

Bagpipes sound in Jumeirah

People arriving in Dubai are faced with high rents but European expatriates do not normally pay their own rents. It has been the Asian immigrants in the past who have been hit much harder by the increases in rents and other prices. Apart from accommodation, public services are good by any standards; the existing Rashid Hospital is excellent and another 600-bed general hospital for the Deira side of the creek is on the drawing board.

Tenders for the 180 MW steam power-generation and desalination plant designed by Kennedy and Donkin closed in February and work is due to begin in March. Tolerant of all comers, no resident of Dubai blinks an eye on Burns night as the sound of the bagpipes rises about Jumeirah from the Caledonian Society chief-rain's house. All manner of clubs and societies, three English-language libraries, church services for small Asian denominations, hotels, restaurants, shops, theatre, international trade exhibitions and fairs, teaming shows and suks, the murals and baggy-crouched Baluch keep this melting pot on the boil; the citizens and the better-off immigrant population is happy to make the most of it while it lasts and it does not look like ending.

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Abu Dhabi: move to resolve hotel crisis

Abu Dhabi has been much exercised again over the past 12 months by the struggle to maintain the high standard of living in the face of the growth in demand for services by the local population and the ever-growing foreign communities and in the face of the rising cost of living. Electricity alone makes the Gulf habitable in the summer. The service was improved greatly in comparison with 1974, as was the water supply, but housing remains in short supply, despite the arrival of the market of dozens of new apartment blocks, and rents are a national scandal. Property is too attractive an investment, and is likely to remain so for at least the next three years or so.

Not a little of the credit for the trouble-shooting at the power stations goes to a team from Britain's own Central Electricity Generating Board imported to find out what was going wrong. Later this year, a 70 MW generation and water-desalination plant is scheduled for commissioning, but as total installed capacity is less than 200MW, 70MW extra will not fill the breach for long. A contract has just been signed, however, for a second 20MW power and desalination plant to be ready by 1979 and a third is planned.

Despite the fact that another large hotel, the Khaleediyah Palace, opened in 1975, it is still exceedingly difficult to find a hotel room. The Hilton is being extended by 250 rooms and the Abu Dhabi Intercontinental is scheduled for completion in 1978, after which a second Intercontinental is to be built in the oasis resort of Al-Ain. Two or three more smaller hotels and motels are planned, so the situation can only improve.

There have been no improvements in private housing and it is now possible to pay 100,000 dirhams (£12,500) a year for a new villa. While this state of affairs lasts, and its end is not yet in view, the local investor has little incentive to switch into unfamiliar manufacturing or industrial enterprise. The Government (and the local press) is well aware of the effects of soaring rents and is beginning to act; for example, a local citizen who is granted land and credit for a private house now has to show that he intends to live in it and not let it at an extortionate rent.

Other facilities have

shown definite improvements on the other hand. Waiting time at the port is now a normal two or three days and there is no congestion. Seven deep-water berths are already in use and 10 more are to be added; the inner harbour is destined in addition for further development. Imports of British goods alone (the all-country total is not yet available) grew by 114 per cent in 1975, probably keeping Britain in first place as Abu Dhabi's largest supplier.

Facilities at the airport are somewhat stretched, but an international competition for the design of a new one on the mainland has just been announced and the existing one is undergoing extensions. An earth satellite station is to be built to link with the Atlantic satellite, unlike the other two in the UAE which link with the Indian Ocean. Interest 4, and will improve telecommunications over a wider sphere.

The sealed road to Qatar, which was begged down to a safe-flat last year, has now extricated itself and is proceeding towards the border. Overland freight will be so much the quicker when it is complete and a measure which keeps down costs to the consumer is most welcome.

excavating its 30 per cent stake in the oil refinery and fertilizer plants under construction near Multan in Pakistan and its participation in Egypt's Suez oil pipeline. New Adnoc joint ventures under consideration include phosphate-based fertilizer plants in Morocco and Tunisia.

Oil production is again about 1,600,000 barrels a day and last month the new Bundug offshore field, shared with Qatar, came on stream at an initial rate of 15,000 barrels a day. All offshore from the three onshore and two offshore fields operated by ADPC (40 per cent foreign shareholders, BP, Shell, CFP and ADMA (foreign shareholders BP and Japan Oil Development) respectively) is exported as crude oil for that which feeds the small 15,000 hpd domestic refinery just starting operations on Umm al-Nar island.

A large export refinery with a capacity of 250,000 barrels a day has been under consideration for some years but the most exciting projects in the energy sector are the \$400m natural gas liquefaction plant nearing completion on Das Island, which will produce two million tons a year of lng for export to the Tokyo power authority and the massive petroleum gas utilization scheme which will gather associated gases from each of the three onshore fields and carry it to Ruwais, near the existing export terminal at Jebel Danna, where propane and butane will be extracted. The state is financing this whole scheme after the oil company concerned decided against participating. After the lng plant is under way, dry (non-associated) gas present in large quantities at Ruwais is to be exploited as the feedstock for a million tonnes a year fertilizer plant.

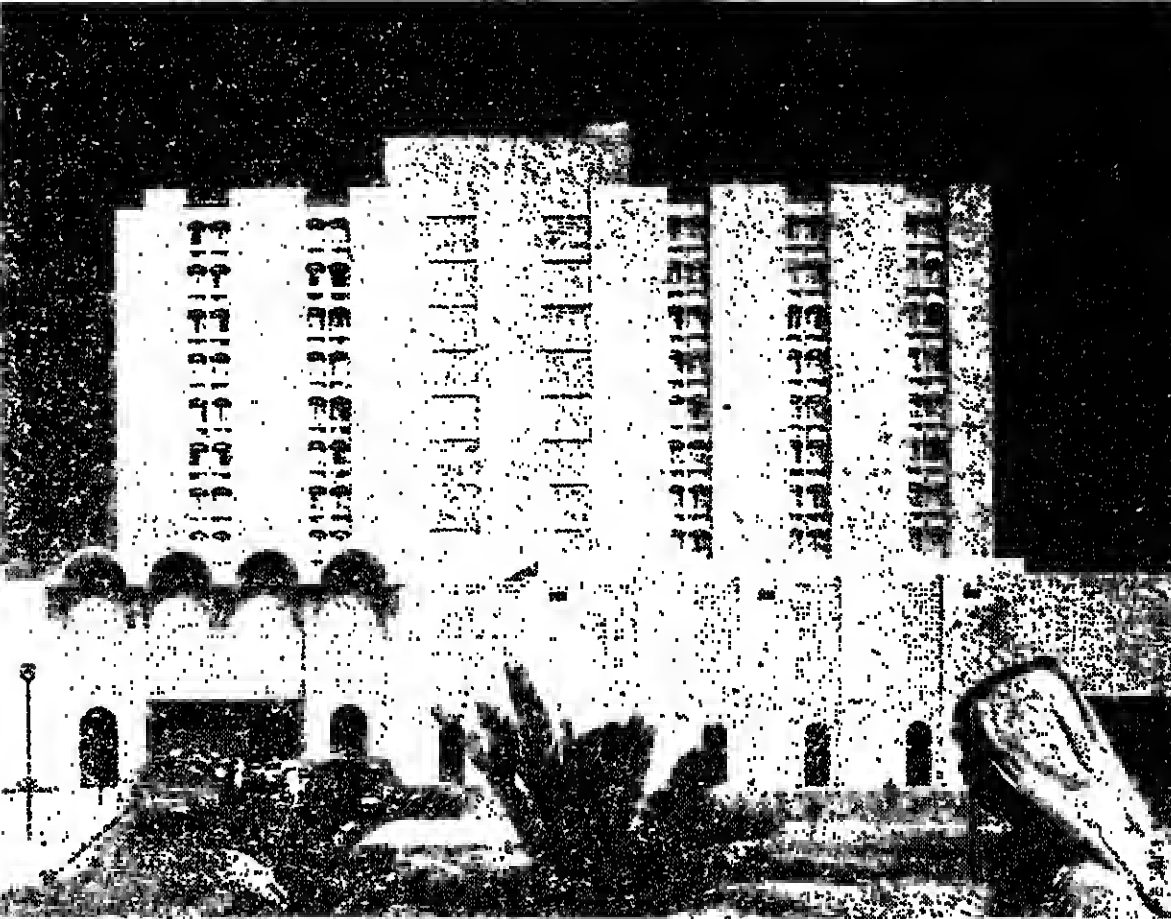
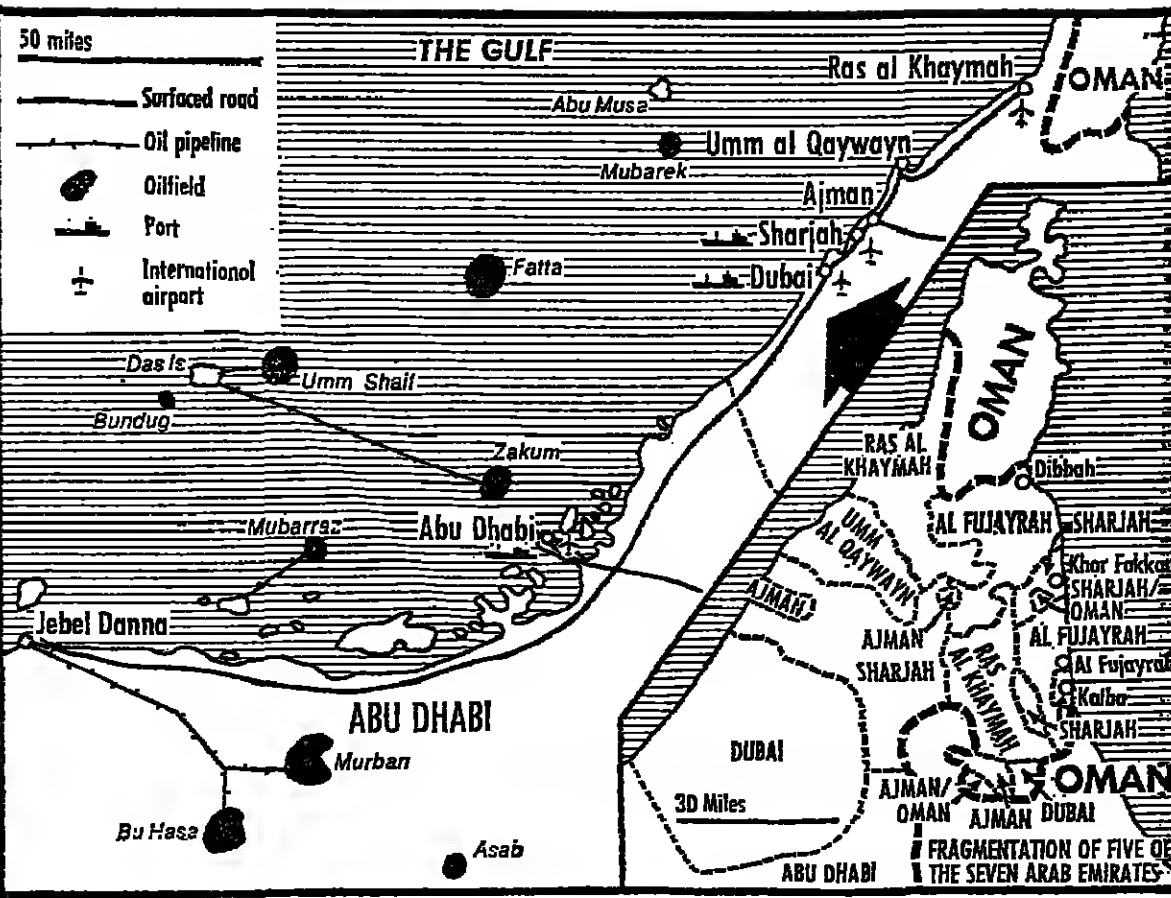
Ruwais is to have a deep-water port of its own to serve the petrochemical plants and will group together at a later stage more heavy industries, including a giant steel plant using imported sponge iron, now on the drawing board, and the export refinery, if this project is approved. Some \$6,000m to \$7,000m will eventually have been spent on the Ruwais heavy industry area, including access roads and other facilities.

Elsewhere, the 200,000 tone a year cement plant at Al-Ain is complete and starts construction at the beginning of April under the management of Holderbank of Switzerland, which was the consultant and

which has a statutory obligation under the terms of the management contract to train UAE citizens to take over. Numerous other ventures related to the construction industry, such as steel bars, bricks and plastic pipes are at various stages of completion and others, including asbestos pipes and sheets, cement products and building materials are planned.

In addition two large contracts outside this sector were awarded recently, for a 40,000 tons a year compost plant, a 30,000 tons grain silo and 200 tons a day flour mill, all in the state segments of the population.

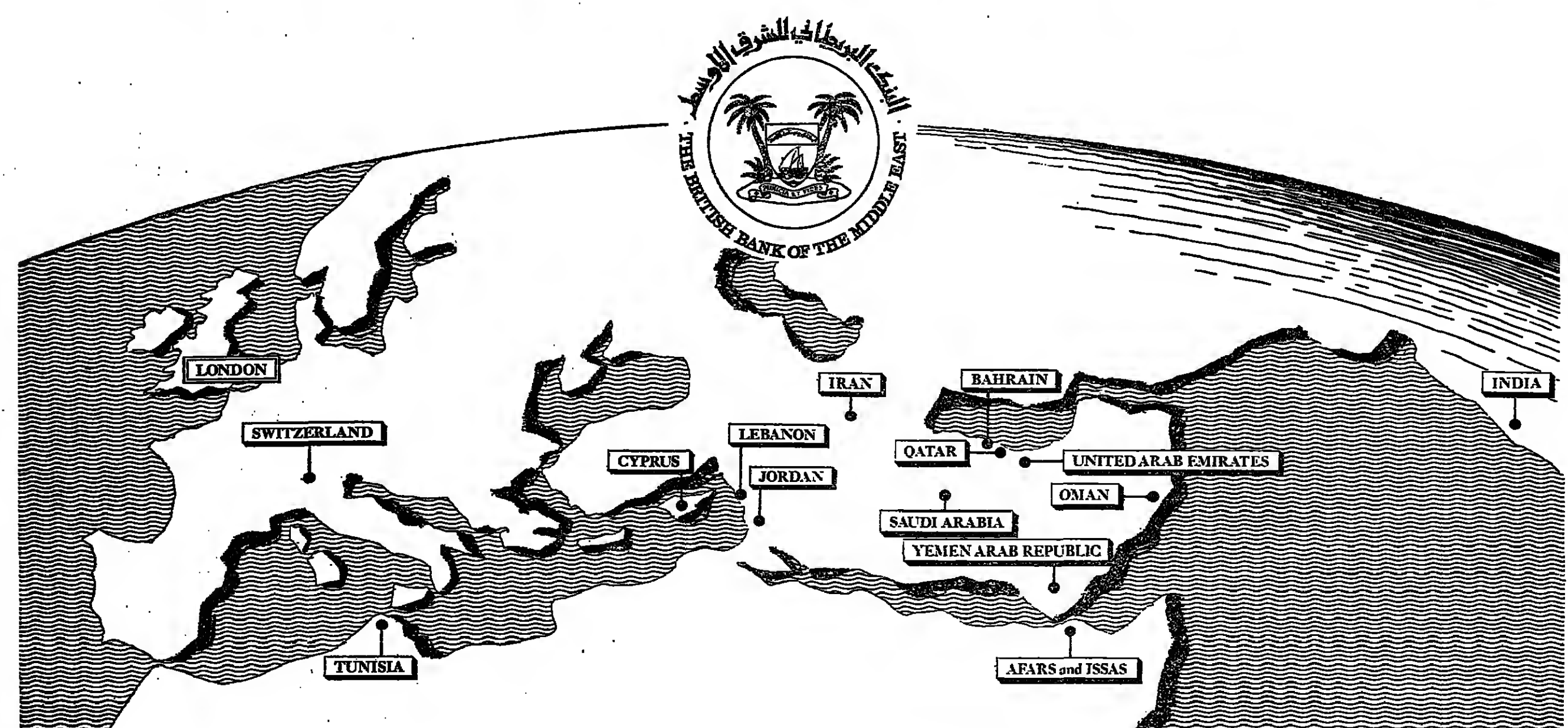
Both the economic balance and even to some degree the social stability of Abu Dhabi depend to a large extent on whether or not prices, and the property boom in particular, are controlled. They will have to be controlled, if at all, from above, because market pressures are not going to ease easy for the Government to act because many of the big landlords are prominent figures in public life, but if nothing is done, industry will not attract the big capital and rents will eat further and further into the living standards of large segments of the population.



Arabs inspecting modern kitchen equipment in Abu Dhabi. Right: the Hilton Hotel which is being extended by 250 rooms.

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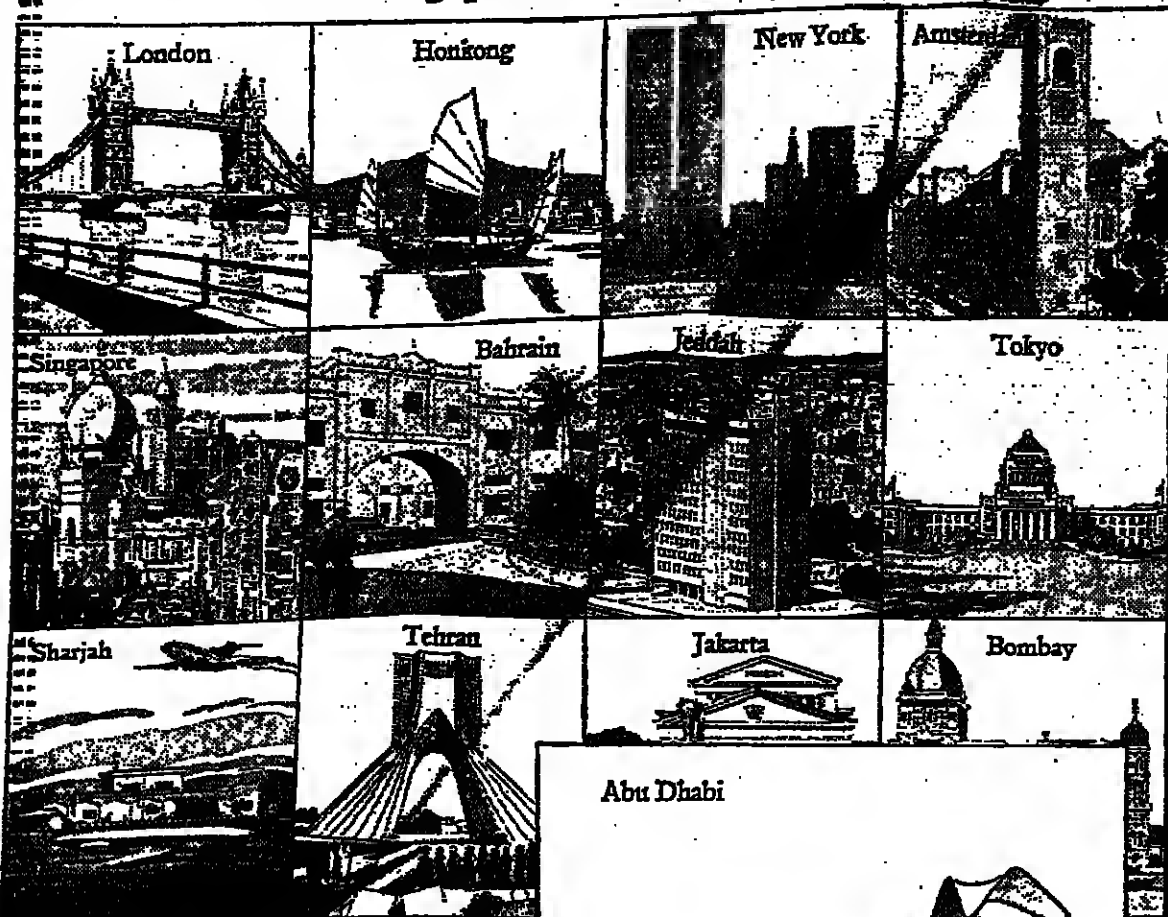
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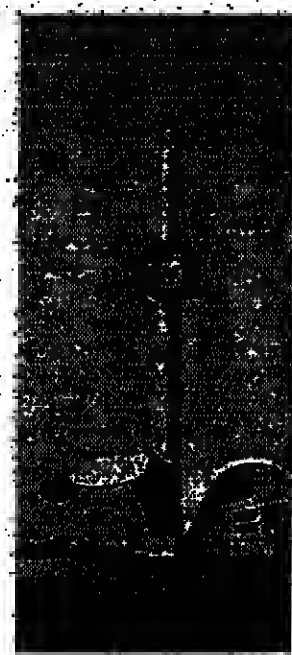
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Sharjah: fastest developer can set industrial pace

Sharjah's commercial and industrial growth in the last few years has been the fastest among the seven emirates, all of which are growing rapidly. Apart from the port, airport and service industries, development of most projects and existing industries are in the private sector. Banks and financial institutions, four of which now have their headquarters in Sharjah, are multiplying like large mushrooms. The large, expensive and modern office accommodation is coming on to the market in line with official hopes of attracting established industries as a regional base.

When the first two berths of the new port came into service in June or July, Sharjah will become directly accessible for sea road since last summer but freight. Six deep-water berths out of a total of 12 will be available when the port, built by Archirodon of Greece and Hochief of West Germany, is complete in December next year. In August this year the Dhaibh Road is due to open, and its 3.67km runway will be adequate for all the wide-bodied jets.

Within the territory, the east coast, where Khaymah is destined for development as a major port, is accessible by sealed road. To accommodate travellers who arrive at the new airport 10 hotels are planned or are already under construction. They include 250 rooms at the Holiday Inn, 350 rooms and 50 cabins at the Intercontinental at the mouth of the creek, 250 at the Meridian



It's ten to four in Sharjah.

The largest leisure development, however, is the Khaymah scheme. The Khaymah, westward behind the road opposite the airport, is to be dredged and supplied with a man-made island. In the middle of the island will be another lagoon, with a zoo and aquarium. A 200-metre suspension bridge 10 metres high will span the lagoon. A Japanese concern has started work on the mainland end of the suspension bridge.

Most of the mainland shore of the lagoon, the cornice, will be used for high

buildings; two commercial developments, a general market and an imaginative one, have been designed, the latter consisting of four towers forming the corners of a square, the sides linked by bridges, and the whole area decorated with mosaics and ornamental fountains.

White, Young and Partners, of Britain, were the architects. But the prestige commercial development is the Sharjah "square-mile", where 12 tall buildings out of a total of 21 are now under construction; like the City of London, this quarter will bring together all the commercial institutions and one corner, occupied by a twin tower, will group all the banks and financial houses in one place.

Sharjah has 27 banks, including the four which have their headquarters in the emirate—the Bank of Baroda, United Arab Bank, Bank of Sharjah and the National Bank of Sharjah. Banks are now subject to the national 20 per cent tax on net profits applicable in the other major emirates and a number of the large international houses are moving in, notably Haddad, Wickham and Sterling and Canada's Wood Gundy. This development is particularly welcome to officials and is expected to accelerate.

Several notable industrial concerns have their regional headquarters in Sharjah. They include the French oil industry supplier ETPM, which is building an office block for 20 of its employees; Archirodon of Greece, a partner in the

Ras al Khaymah: meeting fresh food needs

Since last year's progress report on the UAE, Ras al Khaymah has arrived on the industrial map, with a number of heavy plants in operation; on the physical map with its airport; and on the general knowledge map with the arrival of rapidly increasing numbers of expatriate families.

Other major service projects are nearing completion and oil drilling is advanced, but this northernmost of the seven emirates retains its position as supplier of 50 per cent of all fresh food available in the UAE and its potential as supplier of all fresh food. The factors which make it fertile also make it pleasant to look at, with the result that tourism can be taken more seriously there than elsewhere in the Gulf.

Abundant fresh water was what originally made Ras al Khaymah different from the other emirates and agriculture or fishing still employs or supports nearly three-quarters of the population.

Apart from the traditional date-gardens, now no longer a principal source of wealth for the rural families and often abandoned, Ras al Khaymah has the Digaqa experimental research station, where strains of seeds are tested in controlled conditions and the Shaikh Sagar, the ruler keeps a herd of English Friesians.

Selected seeds, along with fertilizers and insecticides, are made available to local farmers (at 50 per cent of cost) by the Ministry of Agriculture, which also extends credit to individuals for the purchase of water pumps and equipment. Services such as ploughing, spraying and mechanical repairs are free and Digaqa has a small agricultural college which takes students from the UAE and Oman. A resident vet serves the area and his advice and facilities are often vital as the nutritional habits of the livestock leaves much to be desired. His main problem is fighting respiratory diseases and infectious enteritis. His weapons are not only antibiotics but education programmes.

French agricultural researchers of the Sodateg group have just finished a five-year plan for the exploitation of resources in the emirates, concluding that three crops a year of a well-digging programme and other services, the experts say it is by no means impossible that by the end of the five years Ras al Khaymah could be meeting the entire fresh food consumption of the UAE. The high price of imported food makes that an extremely attractive prospect for the consumer.

The mountains, the plantations and the slightly cooler climate in Ras al Khaymah already draw weekend tourists from the other parts of the federation and a group of travel agents from Britain came to reconnoitre this winter. One international class run by the well-known Lebanese firm Albert Ahela, has been open for some years and the contract has just been signed for the construction of the Ras al Khaymah Intercontinental, which is due to open with 250 rooms in two years' time. A British team of archaeologists is expected to arrive to examine the archaeological sites—notably a castle which may have belonged to Bilquis, the Queen of Sheba—which attention up to now despite the fact that Ras al Khaymah was well known to the harassed British Navy in the early nineteenth century and to travellers and historians since classical times.

Travellers, whether tourists or businessmen, can now fly direct to Ras al Khaymah with the opening of the international airport.

Mercat, built by Mothercat with Sir William Halcrow and Partners as consultants, the airport can take all the wide-bodied jets (and Cooce) and the authorities are negotiating landing rights with a number of the leading airlines in the Middle East, believed to include MEA, Gulf Air and Saudia, though at the opening Kuwait Airways provided the first passenger aircraft to land in the emirate. Mothercat, which is Beirut-based, is active in the area and forms half, with Archirodon of Greece, of the Archicat consortium which is building the 360m dirhams (\$45m) deep water port, the first of whose eight berths is due to open in the middle of next year.

Complementing the transport facilities is the earth satellite station being installed by Siemens, whose dish, with a diameter of 60 metres, is one of the largest in the Middle East. Linking in with the Indian Ocean satellite, the station as a matter of policy will eventually be turned into a public company and its shares made available to local citizens.

As a result of the same policy of encouraging direct involvement by the private sector, the 700 tons-a-day Union Cement Company, now operating at full capacity, will also go public in the near future. At present owned 25 per cent by Abu Dhabi and 75 per cent by Ras al Khaymah and managed by Norcem of Norway, the plant is to be doubled in capacity to 1,400 tons a day under a plan now approved—an enormous cement plant by anyone's standards. But none of the other three under construction in the UAE is yet producing, and the federation's demand for cement is still supplied by imports in quantity.

Exports of 6,000 ft a mouth of pipe rolled at the plant in Ras al Khaymah belonging to MacDermid, the oil industry supply concern, go to Egypt, Saudi Arabia and other parts of the Middle East, and a steel recasting factory is about to open, producing steel reinforcing rods for the construction sector. Apart from construction-oriented industries, a fishmeal and fish-oil processing plant built by Fideco of Norway is to start production in August and will have its own fishing fleet of seven boats arriving between May and the opening date.

Not only new industries and new developments but also very many new people have arrived in Ras al Khaymah over the past year and are providing services for both the projects and the people in the nature of things something of a race against time.

Large numbers of low-cost housing units have been distributed and a smart expatriate residential area known as Khaymah Town has

grown up round the Casino, the existing hotel. French consultants Sodateg have designed a hospital, which will have 190 beds and modern outpatient facilities; tenders for its construction are now out. Electricity supplies will be resupplied by the turbine power station being built by the Union of Austria in the industrial area near the port, with two units each of 33 MW to be commissioned in mid-1979. All other facilities, including roads, water and sewerage, are covered by a five-year town plan drawn up by Dar al Handasah of Lebanon.

So one can now arrive in Ras al Khaymah by air and

stay in a first-class hotel. Within a year cargoes will be able to be brought direct to the deep-water port and shortly after that satellite communications will be in reach. A developed infrastructure, accessibility, industrialization with private sector involvement and the state offers put Ras al Khaymah at least on a par with its federation partners economically and its traditional agricultural basis gives it a distinct advantage. It is a rounded emirate with a past as well as a future and considerable visual attractions both for those who live there and the hoped-for tourists.

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UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

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AN OUTLINE OF THE UNITED ARAB EMIRATES FOREIGN POLICY

The foreign policy of the UAE is designed to ensure the region's security and progress, symbolising the main features of the new, resurgent Emirates.

It is illustrative of the UAE's internal potentialities, reflecting the noble traits of the seven constituent Emirates' ancient heritage, and their current progress consequent upon oil wealth. The strong ties uniting the UAE itself have paved way for lasting relations with all other states, especially the Sister-Arab states.

Being a firm believer in the Arab nationalist unity, which is a cementing force embracing all Arab Countries, the UAE is proud of the historical ties binding the sister states.

The UAE is a peace loving state with no aggressive designs against any country. It stands for mutual co-operation and understanding to promote goodwill and friendly relations with all peace-loving nations. It believes in peaceful solutions guaranteeing the rights of all concerned.

ARAB NATIONALIST TIES

A distinct feature of the UAE's foreign policy is the country's firm adherence to its stand of full support, both moral and material, to the Palestinian people in their struggle to restore their homeland and to assert their right of self-determination.

The UAE promptly declared its support for the decision of the Arab Summit Conference held in Rabat in 1974 which called for the recognition of the Palestinian Liberation Organisation (PLO) as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinians. The UAE's support for the struggle of the Palestinians and its concern with the objectives of Arab unity play a significant role in its foreign-diplomacy. The policy is inspired by the basic principles of human rights, the U.N. Charter and the noble principles of human justice. With these ideals forming the basis, UAE foreign policy aims at an Arab unity such as would result in the victory of the struggle of the Arab states against the expansionist Zionist conquest and be conducive to the safety and security of the states against any external danger.

Keeping this objective in view, the UAE has always strived for closer co-operation with all its sister-states. The strong basis for closer co-operation stems from the feeling that all the Arab States have nationalist aims and a common destiny. In this direction, many bilateral agreements have been signed with all Arab countries, covering the fields of economic development, information and culture. The UAE has also promoted, in collaboration with many of its sister-countries, common industries, banks and investments that will surely be of mutual benefit and profit.

CO-OPERATION IN THE GULF AREA

Since the UAE is an important and vital part of the Gulf area, it pays a great deal of attention to the promotion of cordial relations with its neighbours. The UAE has successfully removed all its differences and obstacles hampering its relations with Saudi Arabia, which has now turned out to be a great supporter of the UAE. This relationship has ushered in an era of full co-operation in the fields of politics and economics. The visit of His Excellency Prince Fahd bin Abdul Aziz, Heir Apparent and First Deputy Prime Minister of Saudi Arabia, to the UAE was clear evidence of the improved relations. Since then, top dignitaries of both countries have exchanged a number of visits.

Side by side, the UAE maintains close co-operation with the Gulf states in the economic, cultural and information fields. Many agreements have been signed, including those concerning co-operation in the fields of petroleum, finance and currency. The country discusses with its neighbours the issues of petroleum in order that a common oil policy may be followed. A number of banks have been established with capital shared between these countries. Of late, a move is afoot to adopt a common currency for the entire Gulf region. The UAE stresses the need for full understanding of the common issues in the Gulf, while believing that each state should enjoy its independence.

ROLE IN THE ARAB LEAGUE

The UAE is an active member of the Arab League, fully co-operating with all League members. While refraining from any interference in the internal political conflicts of other states, the UAE brings closer Arab points of view, making the best use of its esteemed status. The UAE is also an active member of the different specialised agencies of the Arab League, playing constructive roles in the political, economic and cultural fields. The exchange of expertise in developmental projects is well established.

LINKS WITH THE ISLAMIC WORLD

The UAE has relations with the Islamic world both in the East and the West, paying due attention to its relationship with the Islamic countries in Asia and Africa. The UAE shares its points of view with the Islamic World through the General Secretariat of the Islamic Conference, of which it is an active member.

The UAE has diplomatic relations with almost all Islamic countries with the aim of strengthening religious and historical ties. The bonds of co-operation with these countries will be further strengthened by the visit of UAE diplomatic missions in the near future. The UAE is helping to implement a number of projects in the Islamic World. It supports the Islamic Unity Fund, the Broadcasting Union for Islamic Countries and the Islamic News Agency. Through such projects, the UAE has translated several of its plans into reality.

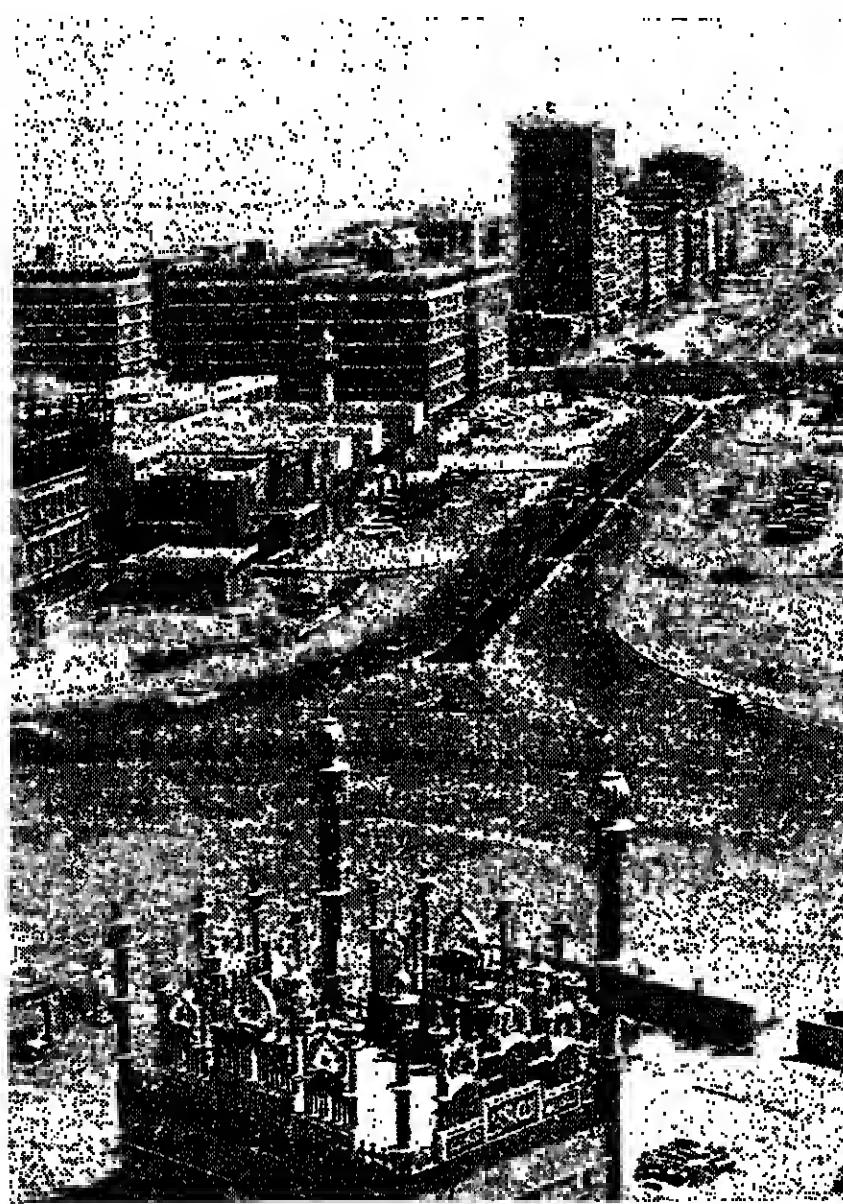
RELATIONS WITH THE NON-ALIGNED STATES

The UAE pays keen attention to its relations with the developing and non-aligned countries. As the UAE is a developing state, it abides by the major lines of policy laid down by the non-aligned bloc.

The UAE is a member of the Non-Aligned States' Movement like all other Arab countries. The state follows a clear, definite policy. It is a peace-loving state which abhors aggression and military alliances. The UAE's membership in the Movement is indicative of the country's balanced policy, which essentially concurs with that of the Third World.

ROLE AT THE U.N.

The UAE maintains contacts with almost all the countries of the world through the U.N. and its different agencies. On the international level,



it abides by the U.N. Charter and believes that the universal organisation is an effective medium for bringing together the different nations of the world. The state considers the U.N. as the best forum to ensure social justice in the world and to remove causes of conflicts.

Soon after its formation, the UAE joined the U.N. and let the world hear its voice. The country expressed its clear policy concerning world politics and helped solve international issues.

The UAE mission at the U.N. plays an active role by explaining the country's policy through its constant participation in the discussions of the General Assembly and the Security Council. It takes an active part in discussions concerning international issues, especially the Palestine problem, the Middle East crisis, the people's right of self-determination and struggles against imperialism and racism. The UAE's denunciation of imperialism and racism is rooted in its strong belief in human rights and the U.N. Charter.

The UAE attended the U.N.-sponsored international conferences like the Third International Conference for the Sea Laws held in Geneva in March 1975 and the U.N. Conference for Combating Crimes during the Seventh U.N. extraordinary session where His Excellency the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs gave a full account of the UAE policy on economic aspects, the improvement of the world monetary system and economic co-operation between developing and industrial countries.

The UAE also maintains contacts with different specialised U.N. agencies. UNICEF and WHO, from whom it gets consultant services, have representatives stationed in the state.

ECONOMIC ROLE

The economy of the UAE, boosted by its oil wealth, plays an important role in its foreign policy and its national and international objectives. The country is seriously concerned with the proper use of the oil wealth as its welfare and foreign aid programme depends totally on it. Since oil, the sole source of the UAE's revenue, is likely to be exhausted after a certain period, the country plans to diversify its industries making the best use of the wealth currently derived from oil in order to ensure its economic stability and continued progress. Foreign oil companies used to control the production, prices and marketing of oil in the UAE. As the country

could not afford this to continue, the government held lengthy negotiations with the foreign oil companies to check the practice. The end result is that the government now holds the majority of the shares in the oil industry. Of late, the UAE oil policy has been shifting towards industrialisation, especially in the petrochemical field, with a view to reducing its total dependence on oil. The state assigns top priority to the distribution of resources for the benefit of its people by providing them with all social services necessary to combat disease and poverty. The aim is to ensure a dignified and prosperous life for the citizens. Next, come the country's obligations towards its sister-Arab states and the developing countries. It spares no effort in fulfilling its duties towards them.

On the international level, the UAE believes that the redistribution of wealth emanating from economic transactions on the basis of justice would result in a more cordial atmosphere, avoiding disputes. If an international system, protecting the flow of commercial transactions in accordance with the interests of the less-developed countries, is established, the economic bonds and international détente can be further strengthened.

ECONOMIC AID FROM THE U.A.E.

The United Arab Emirates can claim to be, in relation to its gross national product and population, the world's biggest source of economic aid to the developing countries. Some figures were given by the H.E. Mana' Saeed al-Oteiba, Minister of Petroleum and Mineral Resources, when he addressed a seminar on problems of world health and poverty held in Vienna in August 1975. He said that the OPEC member states averaged a 6 per cent contribution from their GNP in 1974 as aid to developing countries, and the industrialized nations not more than one 1/3 of 1 per cent. The UAE's figure was 20 per cent in 1974 and 25 per cent in 1975.

Loans and contributions by the UAE to developing countries in 1974 totalled \$554 million. The allocation for 1975 was \$1,243 million.

One reason for the policy is to be found in the fact that the time of the UAE's own poverty is not by any means remote history. "We in the United Arab Emirates," said the Minister, "are fully conscious of the lot of the poor, underdeveloped countries... and realise that our God-given wealth is something that should be used, not only for raising the standard of our own citizens but also for helping the citizens of other less fortunate countries."

There is also an element of hard-headed and far-sighted realism in the UAE's thinking on the subject of economic aid. "In the present age," Sayyed Mana' told the Vienna seminar, "no country, no matter how secluded, can hope to exist prosperously for long when its neighbours are less prosperous or poor."

The most important instrument in implementation of the policy is the Abu Dhabi Fund for Arab Economic Development (ADFAED), established in July 1971 with an authorised capital of \$120 million. The Fund ceased in July 1974 to be exclusively Arab in its field of operations. It was authorised to offer aid also to the African, Asian and other Islamic countries, and its capital was raised to \$500 million. The Fund's operations can take the form of loans or participation in projects. The loans are "soft" with interest rates varying from 1 1/2 to 4 1/2 per cent, repayable over six to fifteen years and often allowing a grace period, before repayment, of from one to four years. Emphasis is laid on the fact that there are absolutely no political or economic strings.

Although ADFAED is the main channel for the distribution of the UAE's external economic aid, mention must also be made of big direct contributions to international agencies including the World Bank (\$55 million in 1974 and \$53 million in 1975) to individual countries and also to the General Assistance Appropriation Fund. This Fund provides aid speedily to disaster areas anywhere in the world and to countries in difficulty as a result of oil or other commodity price increases. It also makes direct gifts to countries urgently needing funds for development which they cannot confidently undertake to repay.

One aspect of the philosophy behind the UAE's aid programme is that it seeks a partnership of technology from the West and finance from Arab oil revenues to solve the development problems of the Third World. As the Director of ADFAED, Dr Hassan Abbas Zaki, explains: "We are not interested in a simple transfer of money, but in the real transfer of technology and natural resources."

In the Arab Summit Conference held in Algiers after the October war, the UAE adopted a project to support and help friendly African countries in exploiting their resources in a way that would be economically and politically beneficial to the African and Arab peoples.

As for Europe and Japan, which import most of the UAE's oil, the country attempts to emphasise the mutual interests between the oil producing, the oil consuming and the major industrial countries.

These attempts are necessitated by the fact that the industrial countries on the one hand endeavour to increase their growth, while the producing countries on the other hand seek to sell their products and get in return the technical know-how and whatever equipment, goods and services are necessary for their development.

The UAE co-operates with international institutions like the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund through which the state gives to the world as much aid as possible to help solve certain monetary problems. Such a policy is based on the country's belief that the entire world should have new economic relations characterised by justice and co-operation. The surplus oil would thus be devoted to bridge the gap between the poor and the rich for the cause of world peace, aiming at the advancement and prosperity of humanity as a whole.

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Development of road system plays major role in integration

by Malcolm Brown

Taking a taxi the 160km from Dubai to Abu Dhabi is an educational experience. First you have to do some bargaining with the driver before you even get into the cab. The taxi-drivers of the emirates are firm believers in the virtues of private enterprise.

Haggling with an amazing repertoire of scowls and the occasional ferocious spit into the road if this opening offer is outrageously low, is the accepted means of setting a fare. A beginner will probably do well to get away with less than 200 dirhams, about £25. The journey is, nevertheless, worth while if only to make one understand more clearly the major role that the development of the road system has made to knitting together the diverse states of the emirates.

The visual monotony of the landscape of sand and scrub is broken only by the odd roadside debris of the all-too-frequent car accidents. Arabs drive at a hair-raising pace—or the road signs warning drivers that they are entering an area of established camel tracks and should take care. But it is a good road, dual carriage way for almost its entire length and kept in excellent repair.

Watching the jolting progress of a steadily built-up road, it takes no great leap of the imagination to see what travel was like just a few years ago before the now extensive road system was built. The pace of roadbuilding in the emirates has been rapid and within two or three years it should be possible to reach all but the remotest villages in the UAE on a Tarmac highway and certainly it will be open to the

car-oriented occupants of the main towns to reach any of the other main centres of the emirates by road.

It is already possible to motor down the west coast from Sharjah, at the border where the UAE meets the northern emirate of Oman through Dubai and Abu Dhabi, then due west along the coastal regions to Tarik. Beyond Tarik is a further stretch to Sila which is due for completion by August.

Thereafter, provided that the dispute with Saudi Arabia over the area west of Sila does not flare up again, it should be only a short time before the west coast road runs through to Qatar and links into the cross-Arabian highway. The UAE would then have direct access through that road system to anywhere in Europe. It is thought that the connection could be made by the end of 1977.

The east coast route is also nearly complete. Soon it will be possible to travel directly from Dibba, the northernmost of the east coast towns, straight down into the southern territories of Oman and into the Omani capital, Muscat. Engineers claim that the final section of the east coast route, from Dibba to the fishing town of Khor Fakkan, will be open by the autumn.

Between the two coastal routes lies a lattice work of east-west highways. One of the most important is the Abu Dhabi-Al Ain highway, which connects the capital with the important agricultural research centre in the Buraimi Oasis, and this is now being pushed eastwards towards Oman and the coastal town of Sohar.

Further north to the so-

called Northern Emirates, which is simply the UAB without Abu Dhabi, roads are being driven through some of the most difficult territory in the emirates. From west to east this part of the emirates consists first of a coastal strip which then merges into the desert, followed by a gravel plain, then the formidable Al Hajar mountains, which at their highest point in the emirates reach more than 7,000ft.

Despite the difficult terrain these transverse routes are proceeding at a remarkable pace. A 45km single carriageway already connects the west coast town of Sharjah—a British military base until 1971—with Dhaid, the oasis owned by Sharjah. Now a connection between Dhaid and Fujairah, which lies over the mountains on the west coast, is all but complete, and will be opened once a 700-metre stretch at Sitkoh, a date-growing village some 10 miles inland, is finished.

Some of the problems connected with road building in this region result from the nature of the terrain; others from the as yet rudimentary administrative system in the emirates which has meant that there is a lack of basic data, not so much about the region itself but about the vehicles which will be crossing it.

The major problem in the desert area is the movement of sand dunes. Anyone who has done no more than step off an aircraft in the emirates on a mildly windy day will see with what a ferocity the wind can whip up even surface layers of sand found in a dip. The same problem plagued many times faces the engineers who are designing



The last section of the great Arabian highway passing through the emirates and linking Oman with Europe.

and building the roads through the desert.

When sand hits a road at speed it can do substantial damage to the surface and block the carriageway. No wholly satisfactory method has been found to counter this, although several methods are being tried. Engineers suggest that one method may be to lay bulk hitmen along the sides of the road.

Certain types of rocks in the region apparently have a low durability and construction teams have several times faced rockfalls. Water is also a hazard and at least one contractor last year had to cause to rue the day when he left bridge girders and equipment in a wadi. These areas fill quickly with water when there is rainfall over

the mountains. The contractor, given warning that rains were coming, could not remove his equipment within the critical first 10 minutes and had to watch helplessly as his valuable capital was swept away.

The basic lack of complexity in the administration—hardly surprising since the ministries have been in operation for only some four years—has important effects on the roads programme. One of the large gaps in the basic data being built up now in the emirates is any comprehensive statistics on the axle loads of traffic travelling through the region. This can be critical and in the case of roads, as in the case of car sales, there are necessary to know the axle load of the heaviest vehicles in the emirates: Datsun and Toyota.

One possible solution being examined is a series of load checking stations.

Another area in which the planners appear to have been caught out is in urban road planning. The roads of the main towns are jammed with traffic, particularly those of Dubai, where it is estimated that 20,000 cars a year are making use of the roads. The Arabs, who have become car enthusiasts, are bringing in new vehicles at a high rate. Sadly this is an area in which the British appear to have lost out. The British are heavily involved in the design and construction of roads, but in the case of cars, they are taking any bets on precisely what the outcome will be.

M.E.

New airports may prove a turning point for aviation

Earlier this month Ras al-Khaimah airport was officially opened to traffic, bringing the tally of international airports in the United Arab Emirates to four. The other three are at Abu Dhabi, Dubai and Sharjah, which started life more than 40 years ago as a staging post for Imperial Airways. Later this year a new airport will become operational in Sharjah and by 1980 Abu Dhabi's new airport should be ready.

This development does not stop there: Dubai's facilities are to be expanded and within recent weeks there have even been rumours in the town that the whole airport might be rebuilt at a new location, freeing the existing acres for further municipal development. To cap it all, the Government of Fujairah, the most isolated of the emirates, with a population of

not much more than 10,000, is said to be considering development there, primarily for military purposes but with facilities for civil aircraft.

This profusion of airports serves a small population—650,000 according to the latest census—so there is obviously some bewilderment among visitors to the UAE, particularly when it is realized that Dubai and Sharjah are within 20 minutes' drive of one another. Part of the explanation, perhaps, is to be found in the nature of the UAE itself. The federation of the seven emirates is still less than five years old and although there is a growing sense of cohesion among the states there is still a strong strain of individuality in each community.

Connect this to the notion of airports as international gateways and showpieces and it is not too difficult to understand some of the reasons for what has happened. Those who live in advanced industrial economies might be horrified by the cost effectiveness calculations involved, but for the moment at least the oil-rich emirates can afford what they choose.

The sense of individuality is also to be found in the operation of the airports. Although the UAE Minister for Communications is formally responsible there appears to be a large degree of autonomy among airport administrations. For example, negotiations with air companies about landing rights and conditions seem to be taken at local rather than national level. The continuing battle to retain this kind of independence would suggest a fear on the part of the stronger airports, Dubai and Abu Dhabi, that if authority were ceded to the UAE administrators, their might be endangered as the UAE would almost certainly want to use its powers to spread revenues more evenly among all the airports.

Dubai is the largest of the airports in the emirates. Last year it dealt with nearly one million passengers, 30 per cent more than in 1974, and just over 12 million kilograms of freight was unloaded, 51 per cent more than in the previous year and 195 per cent up on the 1971 total. Part of the explanation for the enormous amounts of freight is that the emirates, while rich in oil, have to import almost everything else, from machinery to a high proportion of their food.

More than 20 international airlines serve the airport, including British Airways, Air France, and Air India, and others are scheduled to start operations soon, among them Sabena and Lufthansa. Many of them are now flying in wide-bodied aircraft, Middle East Airlines sending in a daily Boeing 747, and KLM running at least six 747s a week. In February Gulf Air, the main operator in the emirates, flew in a Tristar to be inspected by the local dignitaries. Two Tristars are to go into operation now with another pair to follow shortly.

Apparently not effected by the cynicism which surrounds Concorde, Dubai officials say there is no reason why it should not eventually use the airport, adding cryptically that if Concorde were to be flying to the Far East, Dubai would be strategically better placed than Bahrain, the present stopping point. In fact a large part of the

hot weather flight trials of Concorde were carried out under the control of the Dubai Air Traffic Control area radar unit.

Abu Dhabi handles fewer passengers than Dubai but is still obviously of major strategic importance since nearly all the airports are UAE government offices are based in the town and the region is the centre of the main oil operations in the emirates. However, the present airport is beginning to show the strain; for its serve an international clientele its passenger handling facilities are extremely meagre when compared with Dubai. So Abu Dhabi does need a new airport. But does it need the mini Charles de Gaulle airport which the planners are said to have in mind?

The great bulk of the flights into and out of the emirates' airports are passenger flights, but to fit in with international requirements. It is still possible to "town hop", for example, between Abu Dhabi and Dubai, by finding a seat on an international flight pasted through both centres, but all too often this means arriving at one's destination either too early or too late. The very early office hours worked in the winter, 8 am to 2 pm in the winter, 7 am to 1 pm in the summer—also complicate matters.

There is no great pleasure in hanging around Abu Dhabi, a town with few real leisure facilities, during the afternoon when business has been finished in the hope of catching a seat on an evening aircraft. The fairly short distances between the main towns in the UAE and the high standard of roads means that many people choose to make their journeys by road. It seems reasonable to suppose that there might be a market for a "flying taxi" service between Abu Dhabi and Dubai and a complementary feeder service to the Ras al Khaimah and Sharjah airports. But now that these two towns are setting their sights on a major incursion into the international market there is probably little or no chance of such a service being set up. The authorities at Ras al Khaimah and Sharjah would balk at any suggestion that they should become the secondary ports that such a move would imply. So regional pride seems likely to continue to exert a strong influence on the development of the available services.

What is exercising the minds of some of those most heavily involved in aviation in the emirates is how the development of Sharjah and Ras al Khaimah will affect the status of the principal existing airports. It is acknowledged privately that even the existing competition in UAE aviation is of a fairly cut-throat variety and it is hardly to be expected that the appearance of even more airport capacity will lessen this. So in the next few years there will probably be some hard-fought

important British presence was in the early 1930s when Sharjah was used by Imperial Airways as a staging post for the Far East route. Shortly afterwards Imperial's flying boats started to use Dubai creek as a landing strip. During the war Sharjah was used by the RAF.

The British connexion continues. Dubai airport was

designed by British consulting engineers. Page and Broughton, and built by Costain. The same consultants are now discussing plans with the state Government for the extension of Dubai, Ras al Khaimah may well prove to be a turning point for aviation in the UAE, though no one is taking any bets on precisely what the outcome will be. But even the British, who

have in one way or another benefited so much from aviation in the UAE, must be wondering when the business boom will stop. The new extension of Dubai, Ras al Khaimah may well prove to be a turning point for aviation in the UAE, though no one is taking any bets on precisely what the outcome will be. But even the British, who

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History ties states closer to West than to East

by Ann Fyfe

The UAE regards itself, as far as the Ministry of Foreign Affairs is concerned, as a non-aligned member of the developing world and as such reacts in the international forums and agencies in the same way as other developing countries to the Third World's trip-words such as "imperialism".

The surplus revenue from oil, its major difference from the majority of the producing side in what is sometimes called the north-south dialogue, is officially a difference of degree, not substance. History ties the UAE closer to the West than to the East but there is no ideological reason why eastern block diplomatic missions should not appear in Abu Dhabi over the next few years.

As far as the Third World is concerned the UAE's main interest is the Arab and Islamic countries and among its immediate neighbours, the Arabian Gulf States, two of the three outstanding problems have been solved in the past 18 months. The first, the border dispute with Saudi Arabia on the ownership of

a group of villages in the Liwa, was brought to a negotiated settlement in the autumn of 1974, since when Saudi Arabia has finally recognized the UAE and the two countries have exchanged ambassadors.

Shahkha Zayed paid a state visit to Saudi Arabia last year and Prince Fahd returned it. There are not believed to be any remaining problems to speak of, both countries seeing eye to eye in general on oil production and prices and the not unrelated issue of the stability of the Gulf. This is often a key-note of Foreign Ministry speeches in the area and tends to mean avoiding presenting either of the great powers with any pretext for overt or covert intervention for the cause of oil wells. The second Gulf-level problem, the Dhoofar insurgency in Oman and, more particularly, the Marxist-led Aden rebels, is apparently over. The UAE received the South Yemen Foreign Minister last year and is arranging an easy-term loan to the People's Republic.

At the head of the Gulf, the third problem area, the UAE has traditionally had better relations than some of its neighbours with the Ba'athist Government of Iraq but has had its share of the pinpricks in relations between the Arabian shore of the Gulf and Iran. Nothing

could have been more welcome in the small states between the two giants than the Algerians embrace between Saddam Hussain and the Shah; the general mood of détente in the Gulf endures.

Iranian ambassadors to the Arabian shore states are now back at their posts after having been withdrawn because the joint news agency set up recently by the information ministers of the Arab states called itself the Arab League News Agency, and sensitivity on the name issue on the part of the Iranians is said to be on the decline by mutual consent. In any event the coincidence of interests at the strategic level is too close to permit of serious ruptures. Shahkha Zayed paid a state visit to Teheran in 1975.

A last very small problem could have come to a head with the establishment of diplomatic relations at the beginning of 1976 between the UAE and Qatar, whose deposed former head of state lives in Dubai, but the Qatar ambassador arrived in Abu Dhabi and the consul took up his post in Dubai months ago without incident.

On the wider Arab scene, Shahkha Zayed undertook an extensive tour of Arab countries of both right and leftist persuasion in 1974 to establish himself as a presence on the scene while belonging to neither camp. Since

then the UAE's pronouncements on most inter-Arab disputes, most recently Lebanon and now the Maghreb, have been firmly on the side of mediation.

Aid, financial and military, to the "confrontation states" facing Israel was augmented again with the \$150m given to President Sadat on his February visit and the UAE has had the six-month chairmanship of the Arab League during the period when the Arab states at the United Nations steered the motion that Zionism was a form of racism through the General Assembly; its success caused great rejoicing.

The Islamic and Third World circles overlap considerably and it is here that the UAE, along with the other oil exporters, has been able, by virtue of the 30 per cent of its oil revenues it was prepared to spend on aid last year, to exercise most political influence.

The constant stream of African leaders who have been entertained in the UAE includes one of the most senior, President Senghor of Senegal, who came last summer to discuss the

in Abu Dhabi's 1975 budget, the foreign aid allocation, at 3,500m dirhams (£435m), was exactly the same as the internal development budget; this in a year when the disposal surplus sank to almost nothing because of reduced

oil take-off in the early months. In the light of these figures, said Ghobash, end in this situation. On the other hand, there is no great objection to the opening of eastern block embassies, as has happened in neighbouring Oman, and some such development is to be expected in the next few years. Again, there is the certainty that the local population at least has little to fear from communism, but much to fear, however, from any form of superpower rivalry in the area.

For a country less than five years old with fewer than a million inhabitants, the UAE has a great many suitors. Being both rich and underdeveloped gives the country a foot on both sides of the international economic divide but official foreign policy emphasizes membership of the underdeveloped camp in which the UAE is very active financially. Not a xenophobic country, it has the closest links with Europe and no great horror of the Warsaw Pact; membership of any military alliance is eschewed, however, in the interests of keeping international politics out of the Gulf. In the Gulf, the UAE is one of the main promoters of détente with Aden and Iraq and goes along with all the inter-Gulf mini-summits; an inoffensive player on his local stage, in the rest of the world at least the UAE is largely as a result of its almost guaranteed stability in the producer-con-

sumer conferences (but Djibouti's role could put a rapid change in this situation).

Officially, the UAE is undoubtedly much closer to the West than to the East in its foreign relations. No eastern block embassies yet exist in Abu Dhabi, the capital, and one of the UAE 26 diplomatic missions abroad is to a communist country. History, cultural and educational links connect the UAE with the former British States in close touch with Britain but this may be changing.

Commercially, Britain is no longer the UAE's first supplier and both commercially and politically France is local stage, in the rest of the world at least the UAE is largely as a result of its almost guaranteed stability in the producer-con-

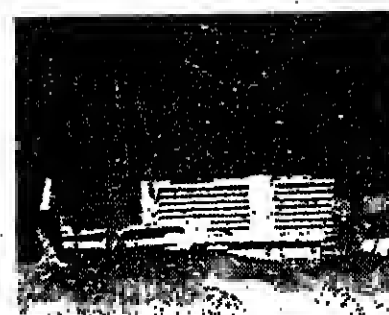
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Generous role in aid schemes extends to Asia

More than 30 per cent of the United Arab Emirates gross income in 1975 was spent on direct foreign aid, and the figure, surely the highest in the world, is not expected to change this year.

It includes loans extended by the Abu Dhabi Fund for Arab Economic Development (ADFAED), which despite its name is no longer purely for Arab countries, and direct handouts by the Government, but does not include the UAE's equity shares in a number of commercial projects in Pakistan and elsewhere.

Apart from its own aid-dispensing organisations, the UAE belongs in the two funds set up by the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries in recent years for Africa and the developing Islamic countries, and to the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development in Kuwait. In view of the size of the capital investment in service industries and productive projects still required in the UAE, and despite the achievements of the past few years, officials at the fund tend to measure criticisms of the Opec countries' efforts against their failure to spend their target figure of 0.7 per cent of gross national income on aid.

ADFAED was created in 1971 with a capital of 500m dirhams (about £62m) specifically to offer long-term loans at low rates to other Arab countries, which it had done to the tune of 200m dirhams by the end of 1974 after its first year of substantive aid negotiations. In the second half of that year, however, the fund's capital was quadrupled to 2,000m dirhams and its articles rewritten to extend its sphere of activity to all Arab, African, Asian and Islamic developing countries and to make available technical as well as financial aid.

Only revenue-producing projects or service industry projects are considered—those, the fund will not finance simple budget deficits—and the maximum contribution the fund can make to any single project is 50 per cent. The remainder must be provided

by the government concerned, another development bank or company, or one of the international financing organisations. ADFAED was host to a conference of all the Arab funds in Abu Dhabi in January, at which their directors explored the possibilities of increased co-financing drives.

Interest rates vary between 2 per cent for service industry development and about 5 per cent for commercial schemes. Repayment periods vary between 10 and 20 years. The loans are paid out in stages during the project against evidence of completion.

Theoretically, the fund has no interest in the political tenor of the government of the country in which it lends and is not supposed to be an instrument of foreign policy.

Loans have been made to monarchies like Morocco and Jordan and revolutionary command councils like Somalia and Mauritania—not that the terminology explains very much about the regimes. The fund is negotiating with the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen, which has not had much diplomatic success with the other Gulf states, principally because of its support for the Dhoofar insurgency.

During its purely Arab phase, that is roughly until the end of 1974, the fund entered into loan commitments of 200m dirhams to finance a power station in Bahrain (which has just received another 160m dirhams), water supplies and agriculture in North Yemen; road building, a phosphates fertilizer plant and a dam in Jordan; property development in Morocco; railways, tourism and manufacturing industry in Tunisia; textiles in Sudan; an iron-rolling mill and a textile factory in Mauritania; irrigation and a dam in Somalia. It also lent 250m dirhams to the "confrontation states", Egypt and Syria, for various projects.

By the end of last year, however, the fund's loan commitments had doubled to 400m dirhams. Mr Nasser Al Nwais, deputy director

of the fund, went to West Central and East Africa last summer and is completing negotiations with Tanzania, Burundi and Rwanda. In January he went to Malaysia, India, Sri Lanka and the Maldives and expects loan commitments to Asia this year to exceed 600m dirhams.

A staff of 60 administrators the fund under the director, Dr Hassan Abboud, a former Egyptian Minister of the Economy. Qualified economists are scarce in Abu Dhabi, and one of the fund's important domestic roles is to train them. Several are abroad in Britain, Europe and some Arab countries training at banks and financial institutions, but meanwhile the strain on the existing staff is great and pressure from Third World delegations is not declining.

Apart from the Abu Dhabi fund, the UAE subscribes to the Arab Bank for African Development, the Arab Fund for Economic Social Development, and the recently established Islamic Development Bank based in Jiddah, to which the UAE is the largest single contributor.

Ad hoc groupings, with other oil exporters for specific projects have sprung up and single grants for disaster relief have been made to Chad, Pakistan and Bangladesh.

A separate Abu Dhabi government aid committee has so far extended a mixture of loans and cash grants over and above the fund's activities to Egypt, Syria, Sudan, Jordan and Pakistan. It is difficult to calculate a total figure for aid, which would include all the head of state's personal gifts to itinerant delegations, shares in schemes financed with outside bodies, government shares in bilateral projects, emergency aid, military assistance to Egypt and Syria, and the other work of the fund. But the official estimate of state aid in 1975 was 3,500m dirhams which is the same as the internal development allocation in Abu Dhabi's own budget from a total estimated revenue of 13,000m dirhams.

A.F.

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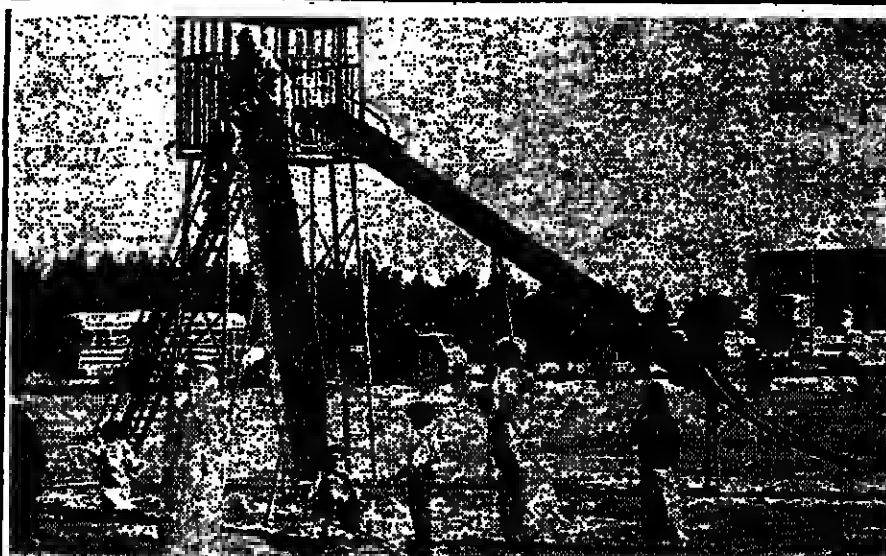
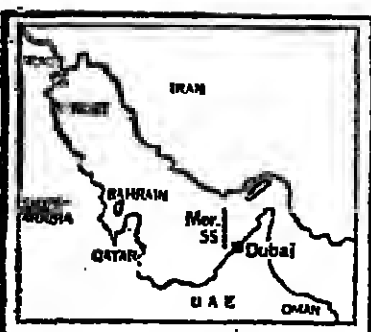
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Abu Dhabi: children playing on slides in a park; the United States influence in eating (left) and a girl reading from an English textbook in school.

Through generous aid to less fortunate nations, the emirates have made many friends. Hasan Akhtar examines the UAE's economic collaboration with one of these, Pakistan

Significant support offered to Islamabad

Though United Arab Emirates-Pakistan economic relations are of fairly recent origin, they have developed over the past five years in a significant manner. The size of the investment so far made and proposed to be made by the United Arab Emirates in a number of projects in Pakistan indicates the interest, confidence and trust of the emirates in Pakistan.

One could possibly explain the rapid development of close economic relations between the UAE and Pakistan to their mutual geopolitical necessity. Lacking in necessary social, economic and administrative services, the oil-rich emirates understandably looked for friends preferably of their own ethnicity, who should, without having extra-territorial ambitions of their own, help to put their huge oil revenues to gainful purposes. The non-Arab Pakistani Muslims perhaps to a great extent could fulfil those requirements.

On the other hand, Pakistan with a shattered economy after two wars with India within a short span of five years and its traditional western foreign aid becoming scarce and expensive, badly needed external economic support which the UAE seemed to offer to Islamabad without putting it under too much of economic or political strains.

It was in March, 1974, that the UAE and Pakistan decided to set up a joint ministerial commission with a view to organizing and regulating their economic and trade relations on a long-term basis. No doubt, before that, considerable groundwork had already been done at different official and non-official levels. Shaikh Zayed bin Sultan al Nahayan, the UAE President, and Mr Bhutto, the Pakistan Prime Minister, had had exchange of several official and non-official visits which went to lay firm ground for greater economic collaboration.

The fact that Shaikh Zayed openly regarded Pakistan as his second home and built a number of palaces for himself in Karachi and elsewhere in Pakistan, greatly helped Pakistan to secure a sizable share of the UAE investments abroad. Many Pakistani bankers and entrepreneurs have earned the confidence of the emirates rulers. The presence of many thousands of Pakistani workers for a long time in Abu Dhabi, Dubai, Sharjah and other emirates also proved a positive factor in securing the UAE economic support.

The joint ministerial commission has been able to evolve a broad-based framework for economic collaboration between the UAE and Pakistan and to plan and expand mutual cooperation in various economic areas and in trade relations.

One of the early and timely major contributions made by the UAE to help Pakistan's sagging economy was a loan of \$100m on easy terms to enable Islamabad to overcome its serious balance of payments difficulties during 1974-75. Most of this loan has already been used by Pakistan. Out of the several joint projects under execution with the equity participation of the UAE, there are three major ones estimated to cost about \$312m.

A large fertilizer plant with an annual output of 223,000 tonnes is under construction at Multan in the province of Punjab. Known as Pak-Arab Fertilizer Plant, the project has an authorized capital of \$100m with a subscribed capital of \$65m of which Abu Dhabi would contribute 48 per cent.

The machinery for plant is being imported from West Germany, Italy and Japan. The plant is being built by Abu Dhabi National Oil Company and the National Fertilizer Corporation of Pakistan. A public sector corporation. It is expected to

be completed by about the middle of the next year.

Abu Dhabi is also contributing \$122m to the construction of an oil refinery at Multan. The refinery is proposed to go into production by the end of 1978 having a refining capacity of two million tons a year. The joint ministerial commission at its meeting in July, 1975, had completed the financial arrangements of the proposed refinery.

Estimated to cost more than \$180m, the refinery would be served by a two-way 500-mile long pipeline between Karachi and Multan. The contract for designing and construction of the ancillary pipeline has been awarded to an American firm.

Pakistan's contribution to the construction of the refinery is estimated to amount to \$57m. The completion of the project will help Pakistan to refine its indigenous and imported oil for its own requirements as well as for export.

Another major joint venture agreed in principle is the establishment of a livestock-cum-vegetable farm on 36,000 square acres of land close to Karachi in the province of Sindh. The project was approved by the Abu Dhabi ruler and the Pakistan Prime Minister during their meeting in Shaikh Zayed's palace in Rabimyar Khan in Pakistan in February last year.

Costing an estimated \$32m, it will be the first such farm in Pakistan. It is proposed to export vegetables and meat supplies from the projected farm to the emirates and other states in the region which suffer from perennial food shortages.

Apart from these major joint ventures, a number of projects of interest to Pakistan are being scrutinized by an economic commission of the Abu Dhabi Fund for Arab Economic Development. The economic mission headed

by Dr Hasan Abbas Zaki, chairman of the fund, visited Pakistan early last year and held detailed discussions with the Pakistani Government on a new portfolio of projects for which the UAE assistance would be welcomed.

Pakistan has indicated its desire to seek UAE financial assistance in the construction of several of its projects of economic importance including the Indus super highway, estimated to cost about \$300m, and and-waterlogging and salinity operations in the Punjab and Sind to reclaim vast land for agricultural purposes.

Pakistan has also sought the fund's participation in setting up a line of credit for the Pakistan Industrial Credit and Investment Corporation which lends money to Pakistani entrepreneurs to set up or expand the existing ones, particularly requiring assistance in foreign exchange.

The UAE assistance is also stated to have been discussed by the Pakistani Government in oil exploration in Pakistan by the state-owned Oil and Gas Development Corporation. The UAE had supplied a million tons of oil to Pakistan on favourable terms during 1975.

Increased cooperation in civil aviation and telecommunication is also being proposed and Pakistan International Airlines prepared a feasibility study for the UAE airlines which indicated a cost of \$35m. The PIA has agreed to train the staff for the UAE airlines.

Trade between the UAE and Pakistan has been picking up although business between the two countries remains modest when compared to the UAE imports from other industrialized countries. Total exports from Pakistan to the UAE in 1970 was of the order of \$5,524,000. In 1973 it rose to \$15,656,000 and a year later institutions.

it touched the record figure of \$25,554,000.

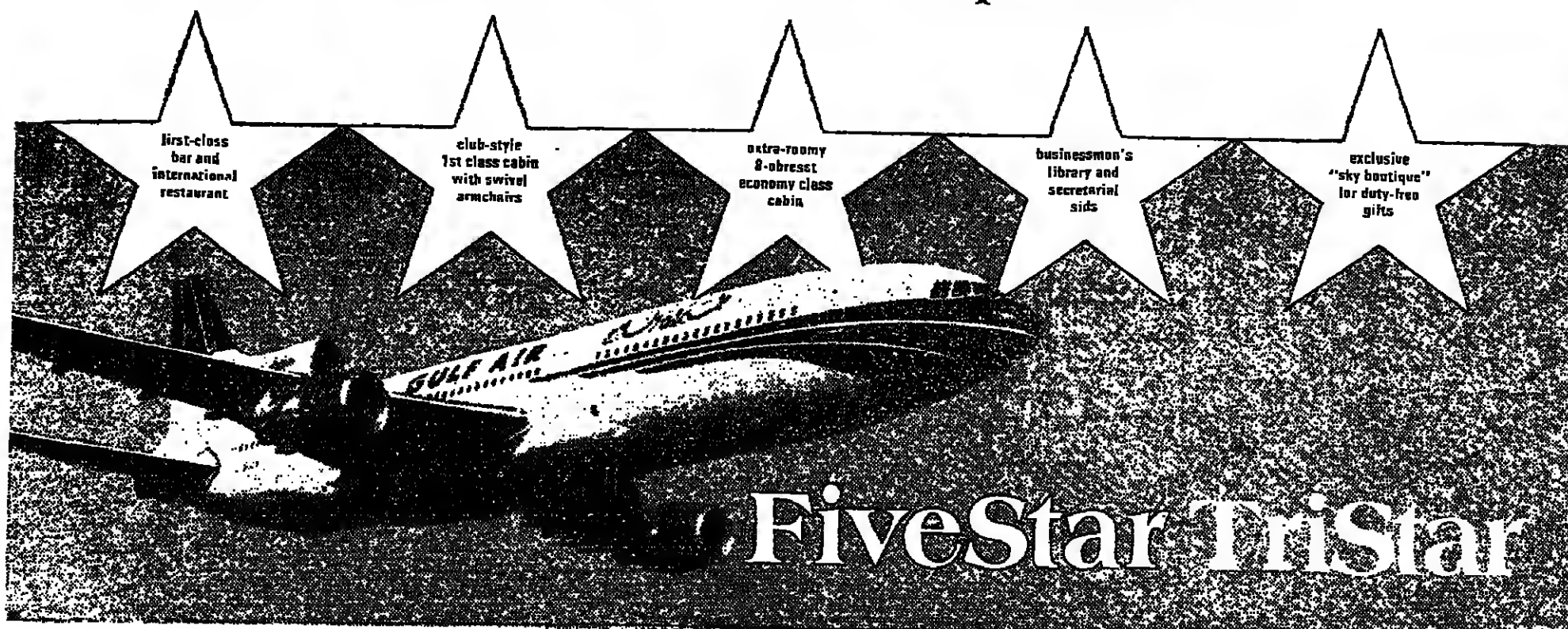
Pakistan finds tough competition in its trade exports to the highly competitive market of the UAE. However, efforts are being made to expand and diversify trade relations. A Dubai trade delegation visiting Pakistan in February gave an assurance that, despite a slump in Pakistani exports, the UAE would import goods worth more than \$20m.

Pakistan has traditionally exported rice and, to a lesser degree, cement and other building materials, but considerable attention is being paid to machinery produced in Pakistan. A beginning has already been made with Pakistan exporting a sulphuric acid plant and a steel rolling mill to the UAE.

An important aspect of Pakistan-UAE economic collaboration lies in the employment of about 65,000 Pakistanis in the UAE in a variety of business and commercial ventures and in some key official positions. This has not only provided Pakistanis with better employment opportunities but has helped Pakistan to obtain much needed foreign exchange through remittances made by its countrymen back home. It is estimated that they remitted \$47m last year.

Apart from the economic collaboration, the UAE has been extending assistance to Pakistan by way of grants in purely humanitarian projects. The Shaikh of Abu Dhabi met the entire cost of a modern hospital in the province of Sindh this year and offered to bear the cost of another such hospital in Lahore. Two years ago he gave \$26m towards the expense of flood relief work in the Punjab. Pakistan has reincarnated these gestures by offering educational and technical training facilities to UAE students in Pakistani institutions.

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Banking and insurance lure the merchants

by Ann Fyfe

The Currency Board moratorium on the licensing of new foreign banks to open in the United Arab Emirates, designed to stimulate local banking, elicited a greater than expected response from local owners of capital. There are now 17 local banks out of a total of 45. Lebanon's troubles have brought some pressure for the lifting of the moratorium, which may happen soon, but the move by local citizens into banking was undoubtedly one of the two major trends in banking in 1975; the other was the measures taken, in concert with the other Gulf monetary authorities, towards setting up the Gulf monetary union.

At the end of 1975, some 45 banks were licensed to open, including 28 foreign banks. They were distributed between three British, four Iranian, two Egyptian, two Pakistani, two Canadian, two American, two Swiss, two French and one each from The Netherlands, Jordan, Iraq, Lebanon, India, Luxembourg, and Bangladesh, plus 17 locally-incorporated banks, six based in Dubai, five in Abu Dhabi, four in Sharjah and one each in Ras al-Khaimah and Ajman.

The citizens who have entered banking have been for the most part, established merchants, with some shalshas. As a complement to commerce and property interests, banking has been more attractive than, say, manufacturing industry probably because technical and marketing factors are

not involved; in insurance, too, the same phenomenon has been recorded. Assets grew from 9,800m dirhams in January 1975 to 10,500m dirhams at the end of September 1975, the last date for which figures are available, but these figures in fact show a levelling off of the rate of growth, between October 1974 and March 1975 total assets had grown by 56 per cent compared with 26 per cent between April and September, 1975. Deposits, interest rates on which are regulated by the Currency Board, showed an upward trend on the whole and a switch from demand into time deposits was observed. Currency Board analysts indicate that much of the increase in time deposits consisted of foreign currency holdings and that about half of all time deposits were placed for short periods, for three months and less. Deposits for more than 12 months are still rare but increasing significantly.

Credit extended by the banks grew considerably from 3,000m dirhams in September, 1974 to 5,700m dirhams a year later, forming 43 per cent of total assets of deposits banks. No reserve ratio requirements are laid down, nor are lending rates under any form of regulation as yet, except by market factors. Over the UAE as a whole, trading activities again absorbed the largest proportion of credit extended, with 52 per cent, but this was less than the 60 per cent absorbed by trade in December 1974—a continuing downward trend.

Construction's share, conversely, grew from 18 per cent to 22 per cent over the same period. Manufacturing and agriculture still account for the smallest proportion. The breakdown differs considerably between Abu Dhabi and Dubai however, showing that Dubai continues to lead a far greater percentage of total credit, 61 per cent, to trade, than to construction, which took 15 per cent, while in Abu Dhabi trade and construction both now absorb 36 per cent.

In both Dubai and Abu Dhabi, the percentage of credit absorbed by trade is declining substantially, from 45 per cent to 36 per cent between December, 1974, and September, 1975 in the case of Abu Dhabi and from 66 per cent to 61 per cent in Dubai. In both cases, it was construction which benefited from the swing, accounting for 36 per cent of all credit in Abu Dhabi, as already mentioned, against 34 per cent in December, 1974 and taking 15 per cent in Dubai against 12 per cent on the same dates. Interest rates on lending are still in the 9 to 12 per cent range, with some volume above 12 per cent but very little below 8 per cent.

It is estimated that the volume of inter-bank transactions has more or less quadrupled since last year's report, as a result not only of a natural growth in the sector but also the introduction of the central money broking facility last year, which has of itself generated activity. A large increase has been recorded, too, in the flow of transactions on the inter-bank level.

As for the Currency Board, the statutes of its metamorphosis into a Central Bank have now been drawn up and are believed to include powers to impose minimum liquidity ratios and other credit regulations. Early in March, the board opened a third office in Sharjah, reflecting the third

largest emirate's emergence as a banking centre.

In conjunction with the Bahrain Monetary Agency, the UAE recently introduced a note facility for travellers by which either UAE dirhams or 500 Bahraini dinars or 500 UAE dirhams can be spent in the other country without being exchanged. More fundamentally, significant progress has been made towards the creation of the Gulf monetary union (GMU) between Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar and the UAE. The technical committee has now reported to the four monetary authorities and it is predicted that the GMU will be in existence in a year to 18 months. Perhaps not as soon as that but well within this decade the union will operate one fiscal policy with one currency (commonly referred to as the Gulf dinar, although that is not necessarily its final designation) and one leading rate structure, even one flow of capital between the four states.

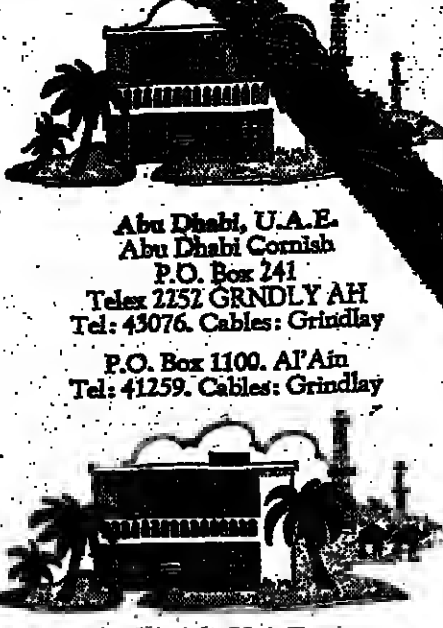
Finally, insurance has also experienced an upsurge of interest on the part of local citizens. Some 33 companies are now operating, perhaps a rather high number for a head of population by European standards, but they are not believed to be short of business. The market is fairly new and complex but highly idiosyncratic, in that, for example, it is not the norm by any means for the owner of a multi-storey apartment block to insure it or himself against any kind of misfortune. By no means all of the 33 companies feel able to offer life assurance policies, as there is a lack of medical and mortality statistics. No form of motor insurance is compulsory throughout the UAE, although regulations exist in one or two emirates, and as yet only a small sector of the community insures its homes and valuables as a matter of course. Most of the business is in fact in contractors' all-risks policies against misfortune to the

work in hand plus workers' compensation which is required by law.

As far as reinsurance is concerned, many of the insurance offices in the UAE operate as branches of companies established in other countries, in which case business is simply reinsured to local offices and naturally the local absence of any foreign exchange controls in the UAE is an important consideration here. Some European companies operate through local agents who again refer back to head offices abroad, but the locally-incorporated insurance companies generally arrange their reinsurance treaties in London or the European centres.

The American system is not so familiar. About 25 per cent of the risk is a fair estimate of what these local companies will retain, initially at least, ceding the remaining 75 per cent and making a comfortable profit on commission income. There is no regulation by law of reserve ratios, however. Premiums in general are low by world standards, there being no civil commutation, organized crime or geographical disadvantages such as earthquakes, floods or hurricanes. Motor premiums and the exception, standards of both driving and car maintenance being distinctly low.

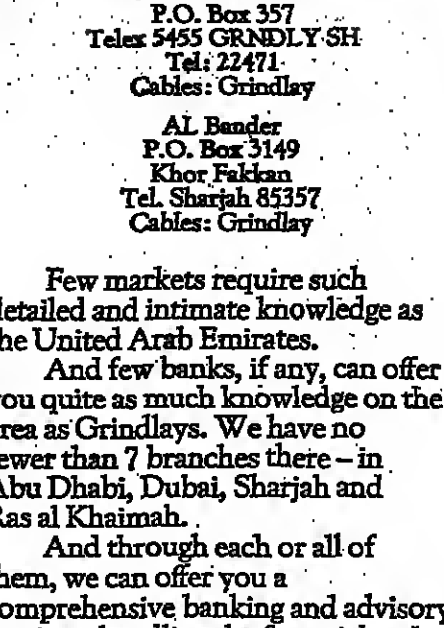
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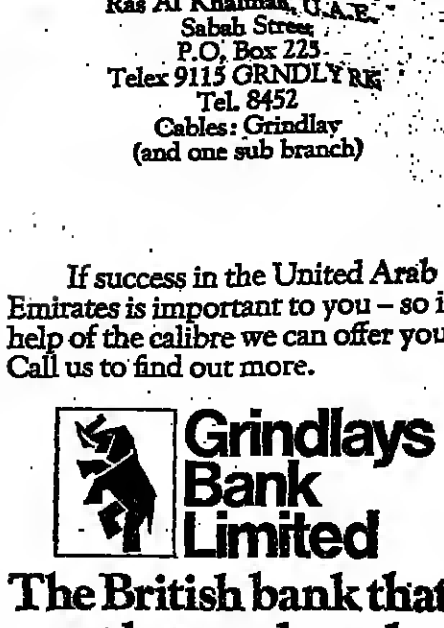
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Financial skill on doorstep

by Peter Hobday

Since Abu Dhabi and Dubai are the two members of the United Arab Emirates with appreciable oil revenues, it is really the policies of their respective rulers Shaikh Zayed and Shaikh Rashid, that determine how money is invested outside the country.

The main thrust of overseas investment stems from Abu Dhabi, the state with the largest per capita income in the world. Apart from the usual channels of personal investment in property abroad, Dubai is concerned mainly with building up its role as a banking and commercial centre within the Gulf.

Dubai is possibly the most overbanked state in the world. Indeed, the emirates as a whole have about one bank branch per 2,000 people. There are nearly 100 financial institutions in Dubai, but Abu Dhabi has not been slow to develop a similar business and has more than 70. There are another 100 in Sharjah, Ras al Khaimah, Ajman and Umm al Qaywayn.

The result is financial skill on the doorstep which gives the emirates commercial and financial advice probably second to none in the placing and handling of their surplus funds in investments overseas. It is against this background, therefore, that one has to interpret the strategies of the two main oil revenue earners.

There is also a great deal of secrecy about the emirates' foreign portfolio. Estimates put the size of the portfolio at over \$2,000m. Until this year the funds were handled by the Abu Dhabi Investment Board set up in 1967. The chairman was Sir John Hogg of Williams & Glyn's, who included men from Morgan Guaranty, Bankers Trust and the Banque Indochine. Later Robert Fleming & Company was added to the list of board members.

The funds were spread, in a fairly conservative fashion in blue chip equities, fixed interest stocks and convertibles. But, as with all the Arab states, property held a special appeal and a huge amount of money was strategically invested with the most notable and probably the largest single investment being the 44 per cent stake in the Commercial Union building in London. It was worth, at the end of 1974 when it was purchased, about £30m. Property values have fallen since then and the emirates' valuation of that stake is not published.

This year the London-based board was disbanded and was replaced with the Abu Dhabi Investment Authority with Shaikh Zayed's son, the Prime Minister, in charge. Its members also include the Foreign Minister. The main reason was, as with Kuwait's analogous body in London, the desire to "Arabize". Although the new authority would obviously retain informal links with former members,

day-to-day control will be exercised locally.

For the moment the authority is working out its strategy and no news has been released how far it will change the approach of its predecessors. It is probable that little will really change in that Shaikh Zayed and his fellow rulers are as conscious as all the oil sheikhs that oil is a wasting asset and the time will surely come when they must live by other means.

One of the problems is that the consumption of oil has fallen after the fourfold rise in the price of energy since December, 1974. This has curtailed revenues and therefore surplus funds to be invested abroad. Again, like other leaders in the Middle East, the emirate rulers are determined to push ahead with domestic development first, Arab or Islamic aid next, then aid to the Third World (in the UAE's case Pakistan is a particular beneficiary). It is only after all this that investment in longer-term assets comes.

Drop in oil consumption

It has been widely reported, though not confirmed, that the investment agencies had comparatively little to invest in the past year. In that time the significant effect of Abu Dhabi's liquidity problems after the drop in oil consumption has meant that investment in the European and American financial markets dropped from about \$1,000m in 1974, to \$400m in 1975. This year, with imported inflation, the planned expenditure on domestic development, the surplus after meeting all commitments will be of the order of \$20m.

But if the public purse is feeling the pinch because of the fall in oil revenues and the rise in the price of development plans which are being pushed ahead, private investment overseas is still very much in evidence. For example Mohamed Al Fayed, a director of Lorbis and Richard Costain, took up his option on 2,200,000 Lorbis shares last June at the cost of £2.6m.

But the individual investor still prefers property and this is where Britain benefits in a great extent. The UAE ambassador bought a house in Rutland Gate for £160,000, and many of his companions have invested in property in Mount Street or Carlos Place. There are UAE interests in a new Knightsbridge hotel.

Mr Andrew Langton of Aylesford, the estate agents, went to the Dubai Fair and says that in May, when the weather in the Gulf gets rather hot, the property buying season will start in earnest. With the devastation of so much of Beirut, and that would include quite a few summer homes for men from the UAE, Britain is becoming an increasingly attractive place in which to put one's

money and where property of good quality (and now thanks to the recent sharp devaluation of the pound even cheaper) is to be had.

Solicitors such as Fox and Gibbons have a growing business in not only representing but also providing advice to visiting Abu Dhabians and Dubaians. It is being rumoured that soon a seven figure deal will be pulled off, but it might well be the unwarranted euphoria of the property dealers that with the business fairly quiet, the Arab buyer is being courted. It is said that about £150m worth of property has been bought by Arabs from the emirates and other Gulf states, but it is impossible to pin down who is buying what.

Apart from property as a summer home or an occasional pied-à-terre in one of the favourite capital cities for the Arab visitor, there are investments being made with a view to income. A beach bygone hotels as well as blocks of flats have all been on shopping lists of the new wealthy merchant class. Apart from London, Paris, Switzerland and to a less extent New York property has also proved an attraction. But given the links that have existed between Britain and the UAE, London probably has attracted most of the funds.

One final area for investment falls between domestic development and overseas investment. For example plans for the development of a cargo fleet (in the words of one Abu Dhabi man "we would like to go back to our original business in the Gulf as seafarers") works in two ways. A growing merchant marine earns foreign revenue as well as providing work at home, and it is obvious that the determination to enlarge and modernize the port of Dubai has proved to be of extreme benefit given the congestion in the Gulf.

Invisible earnings a solution

The consultants originally suggested four berths, but the sheikh insisted on 15. The sheikh's decision, which has long since been vindicated. Again, as Dubai emerges more and more as a significant commercial and financial centre, the revenues in foreign earnings, as the City of London knows full well, can be significant. Invisible earnings of this sort in the long run will be a useful solution when the high oil revenues of today are a thing of the past.

Wherever one looks at the ways in which the United Arab Emirates invest—especially abroad either at government level or through individuals—the time and again it is obvious that the advice that is available is good and plentiful. Like Kuwait, the emirates seem set to break away from the past and into the future without wasting the opportunities of what historically will be seen as a short-lived oil boom.

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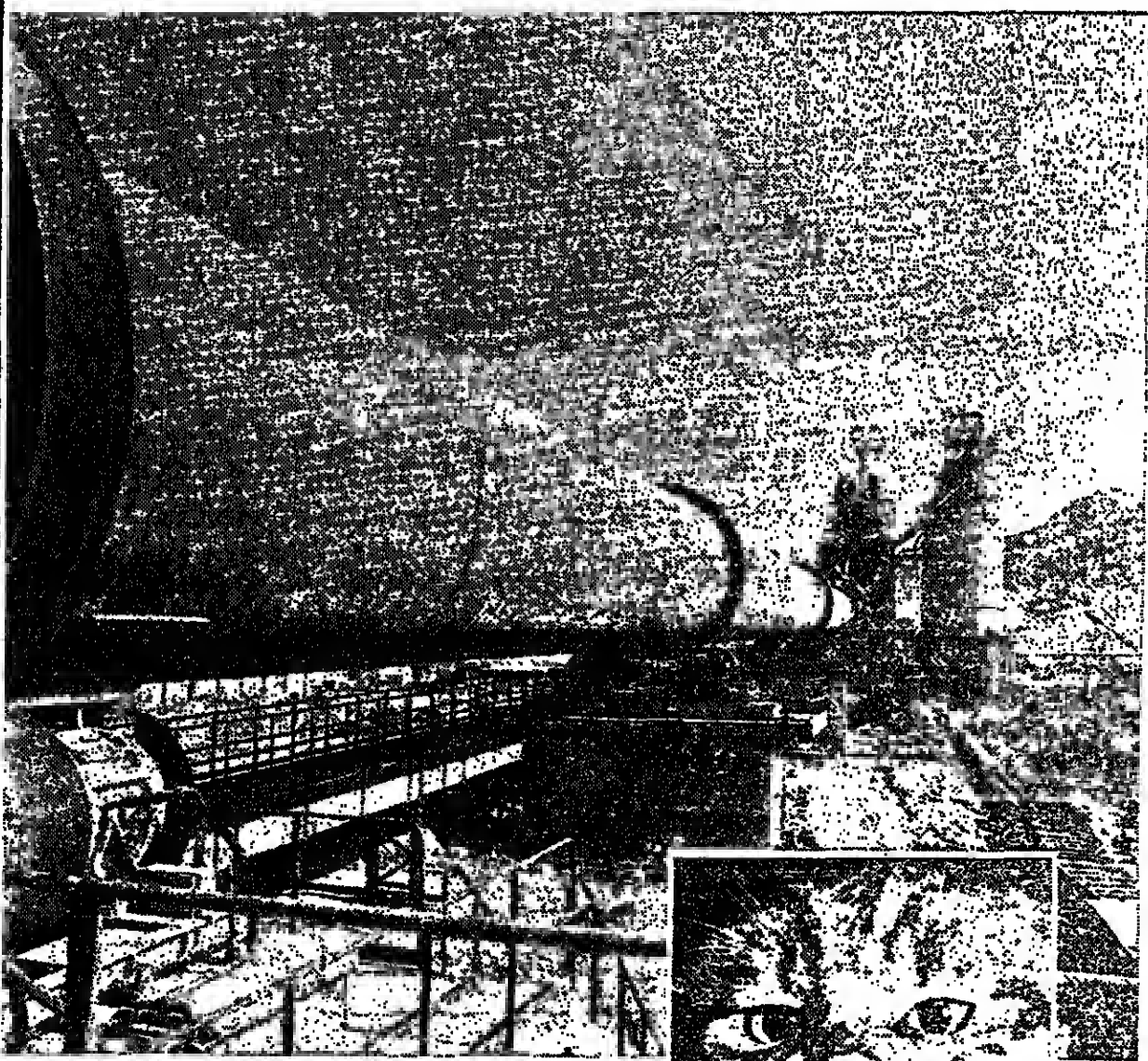
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Controlled environment horticulture on Sadiyat, an island off Abu Dhabi.

Pale hopes for a green revolution

by Malcolm Brown

The idea of a green revolution in the UAE is appealing, but unrealistic. Enormous ingenuity and large amounts of money have been put into remarkable experimental projects such as the Abu Dhabi Arid Lands Research Centre on Sadiyat island which produces more than a ton of vegetables a day in an artificially-controlled environment.

But schemes like these can be expected only to ameliorate the difficulties of the region, not lead to a transformation. The constraints on agriculture are severe: the overwhelming majority of the emirate's 77,700 sq km is infertile and the climate distinctly inhospitable, summer temperatures reaching 45°C with minimal rainfall, usually somewhere between 70mm and 120mm a year.

But if the odds against cultivation are stacked high the reasons for wanting to improve both agriculture and fishing are strong. The cost of imported food is a major component in the high rate of inflation, some items jumping as much as 300 per cent last year and, with the enormously rapid developments of the towns on the back of the oil boom, the emirates are facing a serious problem of urban drift.

emirates on the road to agricultural self-sufficiency, which must be a long-term and possibly unattainable goal. The farmer is aided by price subsidies and can call on help in well-digging, the use of fertilizers and seeds and pest control. He can also obtain generous government loans.

The aim is to wean the farming community away from inefficient traditional methods and persuade it to adopt modern techniques specially adapted to the rigorous climatic and soil conditions of the emirates. The Diddaga Agricultural Trials Station in the emirate of Ras al Khaymah is now in its twenty-first year and is central to the whole research and education effort of the emirates.

Set up on a modest scale by an expatriate Englishman, the project has grown until it now has nearly 400 acres of land under experimental cultivation. It is also the centre of agricultural education, accepting students from the whole Arab world, and has recently completed an experimental study involving the raising of a herd of imported Friesian cows. The results of this experiment when evaluated could have widespread ramifications throughout the Gulf.

The emirate of Abu Dhabi has its own experimental farm at al Ain in the Buraimi Oasis and a new experimental farm has recently been started at Rayana in the emirate of Dubai with the intention of encouraging the local Beduin to take up settled farming.

Although generally the experimental projects have met with substantial success in encouraging diversification and improved husbandry, there have been failures, a salutary reminder perhaps that the problems of the emirates are deep-seated and complex and cannot be solved merely by the application of money, a resource which is in abundant supply.

The Meleha scheme got off to a number of false starts. Originally planned to supply vegetables for a special market which did not materialize it was then adapted to act as a settle-

ment project for Beduin, each of whom was to have his own plot. But the project has been less than successful and a reexamination is to be made.

The most notable of the experiments, and with justification, is the now well-known Arid Lands Research Centre. Financed by the Abu Dhabi Government and run by a team from the University of Arizona, the project is proving that it is possible, at a cost, to produce vegetables in the most unfavourable climatic and soil conditions.

Enriched with nutrients

Sadiyat in effect is a massive collection of greenhouses, roofed over with plastic. Inside the plastic tent the environment is artificially controlled and de-salinated water, enriched with nutrients, is fed to the vegetables by sprinklers and a system of pipes which drip feeds each individual plant at soil level.

But technologically based experiments like Sadiyat, however spectacular, by themselves will not solve the UAE's agricultural problems. These must be tackled at a more prosaic level. The first essential is a thorough survey of the country's water and soil resources followed by an examination of how the best use can be

made of them by the adoption of advanced methods of irrigation and fertilization.

Moves are already under way to carry out such surveys. Beyond that, if the fullest use is to be made of indigenous produce, the towns must build up refrigeration and food processing plants.

The development of the fishing industry in the emirates is an altogether different problem, a question of structure rather than resources. The UAE borders two extremely productive fishing regions: the Gulf, lying between Iran and the Arabian Peninsula, and the Gulf of Oman. The Gulf contains many varieties of fish from rock-cod to tuna while an even greater abundance of fish is found in the Gulf of Oman, including mackerel, jack, merlin and sardine.

But to exploit these resources properly the emirates need a modern fishing fleet, good harbours and land-based facilities. In the past few years a number of small wharves have been constructed in Ras al Khaymah, Meleha, Khor Khawze, Abu Dhabi, Dibba and Khor Fakkan and four have been built in Dubai. But many of them still lack basic facilities like fuel and water supplies.

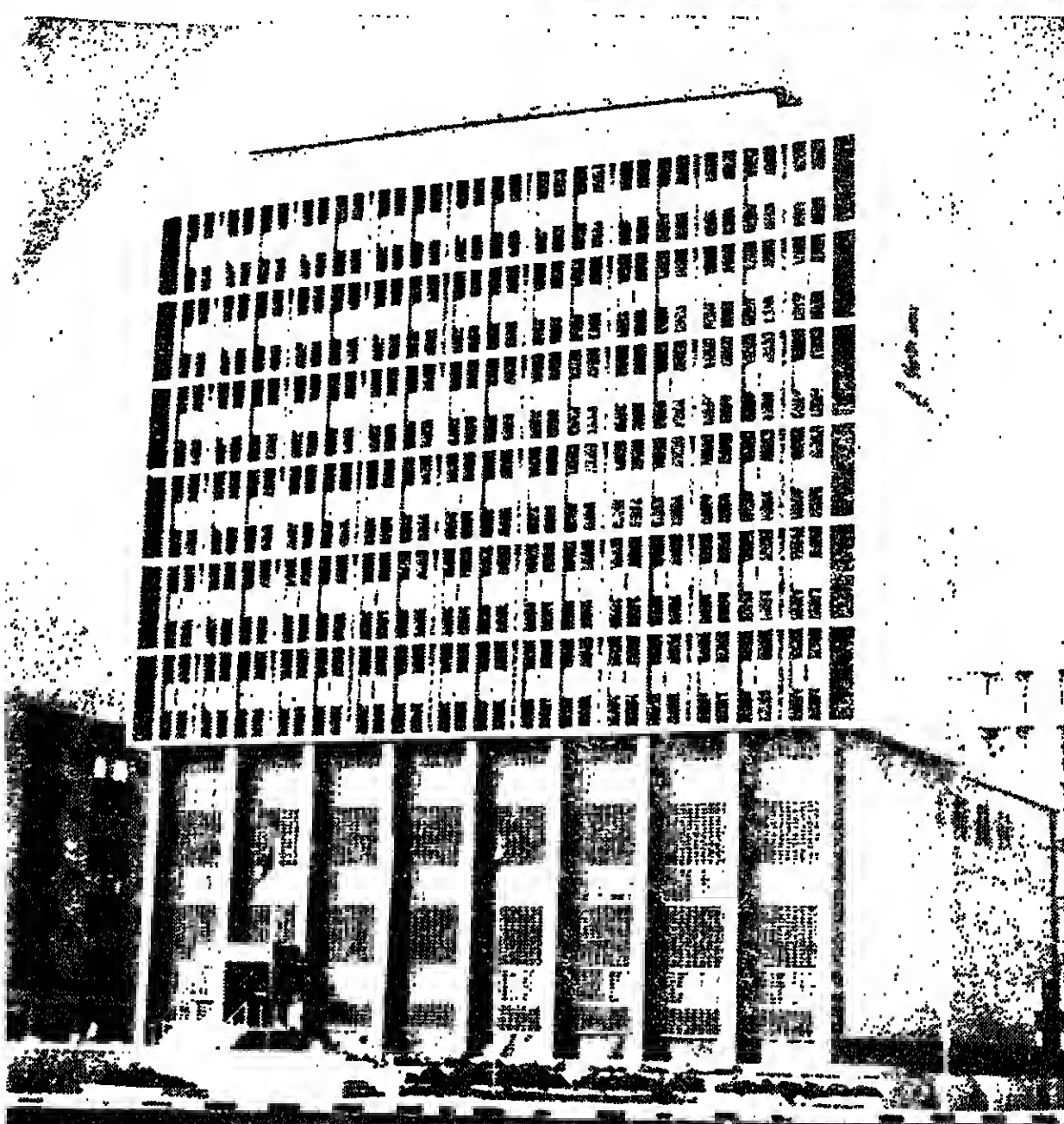
Market facilities are also scarce. Eight rudimentary fish markets have been built by the Government recently but they tend to serve restricted village communities and in many fishing villages the fishermen still have to

resort to the traditional methods of drying their catch on the beach.

Modernization of the fishing fleet is a priority. The Development Bank of the United Arab Emirates makes loans for the purchase of large modern vessels and equipment. On a more modest level the fishermen are able to get financial support for new engines: in the period 1971-74 nearly 650 engines were bought under this scheme, and a further 300 were made available to fishermen last year. To back up this facility free maintenance workshops have been set up in some areas.

The encouragement which has been given to the fishing industry has led to a major increase in catches. In 1963 the estimated catch was 10,000 tons; by 1974 this had increased more than sixfold and it seems likely that these figures will continue to be improved upon for some years yet.

In both agriculture and fishing, although the will is there to push through improvements, there is a basic weakness: the administrative structure, from the minister down, is, say its critics, ill-defined and inefficient. It is felt that until a proper administration is built, progress in agriculture and fishing is bound to be less than satisfactory. All too often one hears of projects which have ground to a halt because nobody wished to take responsibility for them in the absence of clear directives from above.



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The highest rainfall

The main limiting factor on agriculture in the UAE is water; it is the location and quality of water which determine the agricultural profile of the emirates. The most favoured region is Ras al Khaymah, which lies to the north. Ras al Khaymah receives underground water supplies from the Oman mountains near by and has the highest rainfall, allowing it to support good arable land—a rarity in the emirates. The area is also the traditional fruit and vegetable garden of the emirates, supplying everything from dates to cucumbers, and has sufficient good grazing to feed cattle, camels, goats and sheep.

There are three other agricultural areas in the emirates: the Buraimi Oasis straddling the borders of Abu Dhabi and the Sultanate of Oman, the Liwa Oasis, 125 miles south east of Buraimi, and parts of the discontinuous Batinah coastal plains on the Gulf of Oman.

As the populations of the towns multiply and tastes become more advanced, there is a ready and growing market for all that the agricultural regions can produce. But the problems of fulfilling that demand are legion. Water is in short supply and what there is is wasted due to poor irrigation methods; livestock diseases such as pleuropneumonia and mange are widespread; and diseases and insects often create havoc on fruit and vegetable crops.

The Government is spending large amounts of money trying to conquer these disadvantages and set the

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Unlike other parts of the Middle East, such as Egypt, Palestine and Turkey where countless artists from the nineteenth century to the present day have recorded the monuments, scenery and people, few painters have left records of the Gulf area. So today's historians are largely dependent on the written accounts of travellers for their knowledge of the way of life and the appearance of the sheikhs before the invention of the camera.

Happily, this situation is being remedied. Not only are intensive camera studies being made of the architecture, natural history and scenery of the seven sheikhdoms forming the United Arab Emirates, but artists are busily at work capturing this fast-changing world.

The newly founded Mathaf Gallery, in Morcomh Street, London, specializes in the work of artists of the Middle East. During the World of

Islam Festival, it will be mounting a series of short exhibitions of paintings from this area.

A selection of paintings from the emirates by two women artists based in Abu Dhabi will be exhibited in the gallery from April 19 to 24. Details from examples of their work are seen here. One of the artists, Joyce Butter, is married to Shaikh Zaid's finance director. She studied at the Leeds School of Art, qualified as an art teacher and won a scholarship to the Royal Academy. Her work has been widely exhibited both in Britain and in the emirates, and she has received many commissions from both the Government of Abu Dhabi and Shaikh Zaid personally.

The other artist, Ria Aldrowska, a fellow of the Royal Society of Arts since 1943, has regularly exhibited at the Royal Academy as well as in the Gulf. Her work is shown at left and Mrs Butter's at right.



Emphasis on development of adult education

by Ann Fyfe



A boy learning mathematics in an Abu Dhabi school.

The educational system of the United Arab Emirates as it has burgeoned since the federation was established in 1971 but, as a consequence of its rapid growth, faces difficulties of administration, staffing and policy. In the three years since 1974, the number of schools of all types more than doubled to 147, reflecting the speed of formal, non-Koranic education into the remote parts of the country.

Historically, formal education in the seven states which united to form the federation had received little emphasis, partly because of scarce resources and partly because of the sparse and unevenly distributed population pattern. The first developments were concentrated in the coastal towns and at the time of federation two main and separate systems existed: the Abu Dhabi State Ministry of Education, founded in 1974, and the system of education donated and administered by the Kuwaiti State Office for the six northern emirates.

Parallel to these developing systems went the establishment of the Sharjah State Department of Education and the establishment (through the Trucial States Development Council) of a trade school teaching to City and Guilds craft level and providing a springboard for further technical education.

It can be seen, however, that all these developments

are fairly recent and that the system was concentrated at primary level: in 1974 there were still only 1,550 pupils at secondary level out of a total of 40,500 at school, and the traditional pattern in the previous decade was for pupils to follow secondary level courses abroad (in Qatar or Kuwait, or further afield).

There is at present no indigenous system of further education, although a pattern of teacher training (particularly for women) is established similar to the former elementary school system in Britain and other countries, and in recent years particular emphasis has been laid on the development of adult education (the eradication of illiteracy) classes, there now

being more than 100 such centres.

After federation the various systems were amalgamated and the education system set up by the Kuwaiti State Office and the administration developed in Sharjah and Abu Dhabi became the basis of the federal system. Over the intervening period the ministry has continued to use the Kuwaiti syllabus working to the Kuwaiti Secondary School Leaving Certificate (SSLC), which was instituted in 1975, as the federation entered a new period of maturity and greater numbers were employed on the secondary staffs. The system aims at an Arab and Islamic education and the provision of a basic education for both boys and girls.

Two significant steps mark the growing maturity of the educational system: a committee has been appointed to consider and advise on syllabus development, and the decision has been taken to set up a system of higher education. The ministry's budget for this year is £75m, reflecting not only the increasing recurrent costs of the expanding education services but also the early stages of the development costs of these two initiatives. While the syllabus committee is already engaged in determining the social and educational framework of the new syllabus, planning for the new university is at an early stage and it is expected that the institution will begin as a faculty of education in converted premises.

The pyramid structure of the emirates' educational system is planted in the broad base of the primary schools, which in 1974 accounted for some 34,000 of the 40,500 pupils in the system. A 12-year system similar to that provided in several neighbouring Arab countries is in force, consisting of six years' primary education followed by three years' intermediate and three years' secondary, leading to the SSLC.

Increasingly in the larger towns provision is being made for kindergarten education. The existing system of technical education encompasses schools in Dubai (with a commercial subjects institute), Sharjah and Ras al Khaymah, a vocational training centre in Abu Dhabi and a small agricultural college in Diddaga.

Stipends give opportunity

For the present, students completing the SSLC benefit from the generous stipends awarded for study abroad, the most popular subjects being medicine, engineering and business and commercial studies, most pupils being awarded for study in Egypt, Kuwait and Lebanon with increasing numbers of students following courses in the United States rather than the existing favourite, Britain. Stipends (of a value increasing with the grade) are also paid to school pupils and thus there is a clear opportunity for pupils from all backgrounds to progress from primary to higher education according to their abilities.

Because of the large and varied expatriate communities in the emirates, there is a long-established and expanding system of community schools, especially at primary level. The schools are subject to standards set by the Ministry of Education but the ministry encourages this type of education "in the belief that it is necessary to accommodate expatriate students who cannot be housed in government schools". Best provided with such schools is the Dubai-Sharjah conurbation where primary schools exist or are planned for children speaking Arabic, Persian, Urdu, English, French and German, but similar schools exist in Abu Dhabi and are likely to grow up in other towns as the pace of development quickens.

The schools tend to follow syllabuses leading to secondary school entrance within the students' own national systems and, particularly for British children, secondary school studies will be at a boarding school. All the schools are well subscribed and expatriates seeking places in them need to contact the school's board well in advance.

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The Bitnah fort in Al Fujayrah. Forts such as these are familiar to travellers in this harsh terrain. Right: the mysterious mound which scholars have recently discovered at Ras al Khaymah may be the remains of a shore fort captured from the Portuguese in 1633.

Seeking an ancient nation beneath the sun-baked soil of the new

by Peter Hudson

The modern road from Abu Dhabi goes north along the coast of the United Arab Emirates over sterile, white sand for miles after miles. The monotony of its rolling hills is broken only by the greater monotony of vast reaches of brown *subkha*: flat and salt-crusted marsh, treacherous and without life, which makes the neighbouring sands appear fertile by comparison.

North of Dubai, the vegetation in the sands begins to increase and almost as imperceptibly the colour of the sands deepens as the Hajar mountains, with their rich silts, touch closer to the coast. North of Umm al Qaywayn, the sands darken towards a red-gold hue and in winter, after the rains, are carpeted with flowers and fine grass shoots, a green

blush which again turns to grey in summer.

At Ras al Khaymah, the great strip of fertile plain which lies like a black carpet at the feet of the heat-shattered Hajar mountains stands thick with gardens which extend southwards towards Al Khatt. South of Al Khatt, the gravel plain, streaked by wadis, travels on. Passing Masafi and Mileiha, it becomes the Madam plain, scattered here and there with villages and gardens, and reaches the great oases of Al Ain and Bursaimi.

To those arriving from Europe and America, experiencing its climate for the first time, this country is harsh and often frightening, and it may seem that only a brutal and uncompromising existence could have been

eked out here ever since man first came.

Contact with the Arabs soon dispels that impression, however. The genius for civilization is there, the gentle, friendly gardeners tending their precarious plots in the mountains and the deserts and their hospitable *bedu* neighbours having previously lacked only the material requirements of modern culture. Now that oil pays for these requirements, they are supplied, often at breathtaking speed, and the country flourishes—just as it may have done in prehistoric times.

New roads which make travel, even in this forbidding climate, more comfortable, are now enabling Government, professionals and amateurs to enlarge on the

preliminary archaeological investigation of the area which began only recently and under difficult conditions.

Among the early visitors to the Trucial States, as the United Arab Emirates were then called, Beatrice de Cardi made a brief but useful survey which was published in 1971. Geoffrey Bibby, whose Danish archaeological expedition had discovered the third millennium civilization of Dilmun on Bahrain island, organized the first excavations at Umm al Nar Island near Abu Dhabi and at Hill near Al Ain which indicated the possibility that the United Arab Emirates might be the location of the missing land of Magan, the source of Mesopotamia's copper in the bronze age.

In any major archaeological undertaking there the changed coastline of the emirates must be brought into consideration. In Qatar, the Danish archaeological survey found that the coast had risen by some 80 ft in 40,000 years; in the United

Arab Emirates, bronze age sites at Dubai, Sharjah, Hamriya and Umm al Qaywayn which were formerly on the coast, are now well inland, separated from the sea by wide *subkha* flats.

In former times, the coast of the United Arab Emirates was deeply notched by creeks, such as those at Abu Dhabi, Dubai, Khan, Sharjah and Umm al Qaywayn, which are assumed to be the mouths of ancient wadis. Because the land is rising or because it now rains less than in earlier times and the wadis have stopped flowing, the creeks are silted up and the coastline is slowly being formed by tidal drift into a smoother line, the *subkha* being reclaimed by wind-blown sand.

Stone implements are found in abundance. In an area which may have lost the knack of exploiting its metals, where perhaps the copper mines were lost and forgotten because of reasons yet unknown, the inhabitants may naturally have continued a tradition of stone working until recent times. This must be assumed for the time being from the tools which are found at Kishm Nadir, a coastal village just south of Ras al Khaymah which Beatrice de Cardi suggested was abandoned in the seventeenth century.

However, the presence in addition of many genuine prehistoric sites has been established, without doubt. Although no chronology is as yet available for the flint

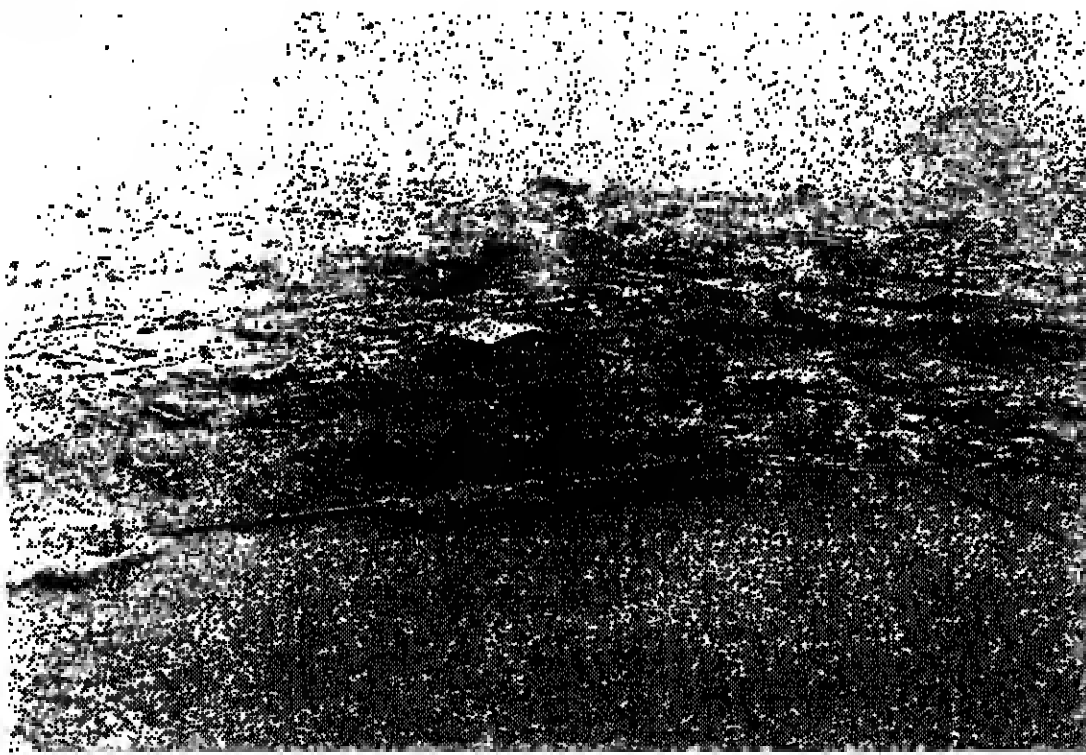
finds, some sites are very similar to those found by Holger Kapel in Qatar for which Kapel established datings of about 5000 BC.

Hellenistic finds have been made at Mileiha and at Umm al Qaywayn and recent newspaper reports indicate that Ras al Khaymah may have had some connexion with the kingdom of Sheba in Yemen, perhaps as a watering-place for ships plying the incense routes.

More recently, the Portuguese built forts at Julfar, Dibba, Fujayrah, Khorik, Kan and Kalbah, and the remains of some of these still exist. A mound which has recently been discovered at Ras al Khaymah may be the remains of the shore fort

which was captured by the Portuguese in 1633. A start has been made towards the formation of an archaeological society which will record them as its find on to the Ministry of Information.

So much lies in the past. A start has been made towards the formation of an archaeological society which will record them as its find on to the Ministry of Information. Thus, the society will be a valuable contribution to the discovery of the Arab Emirates' past, its people in touch with their predecessors who have been the citizens of the lost country of Magan.



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